

"Sometimes you get it from chicken.
Sometimes you get it from coffee."

Page 14



Sixteen teams are gathering in the US for the first women's World Cup of the new century.

Page 13



A series of events commemorating Beijing's 850th anniversary as capital of China were officially launched last Saturday. Beijing Today joins the celebration by dedicating four pages to the events.

Page 9 - 12

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Treaties Target Crime

By Jerry Ho

Efforts in China to fight corruption received a boost recently with the announcement of two measures by the United Nations aimed at tackling organized crime and corruption.

The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crimes, signed by more than 140 countries, takes effect as of September 29. On the same day, a UN committee is to finalize the text of an Anti-Corruption Treaty and submit it for approval by the General Assembly.

China signed the Convention

Against Transnational Organized Crimes on December 12, 2000, and the National People's Congress (NPC) officially approved it on August 27 this year.

The convention is aimed at closing the major loopholes that allow organized crime to flourish and block international efforts to combat it. Speaking at the release of the first draft in August 2000, executive director of the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) Pino Arlacchi, said "We can now affirm that the tide is turning on cross-border crime."

In the three years following

the release of the first draft, with increasing international alarm at the growing power of criminal groups and their involvement in new areas of crime, participating countries have ironed out their differences and the draft has finally boiled down to the first legally binding UN instrument in the area of crime.

Under the terms of the convention, countries would commit themselves to criminalizing participation in an organized criminal group, money laundering, corruption and obstruction of justice, as well as to eliminating "safe havens," protecting witness-

es and facilitating the investigation and prosecution of cases involving more than one country.

The convention's significance in fighting cross-border corruption, specifically money laundering and availability of safe havens, is strengthened by the UN's Anti-corruption Treaty, the rules of which are described by Antonio Maria Costa, head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, as "conditions for good governance and rule of law and are in turn foundations of financial stability and sustainable development."

The two pacts, branding many forms of corruption as criminal

acts and requiring ratifying nations to take joint preventative measures, are expected to encourage international cooperation in battling corrupt acts and help governments extradite or prosecute fleeing corrupt officials and recover money they have siphoned off.

By signing and approving the two documents, China is committed to hunt down corrupt officials, terrorists, drug dealers and money laundering criminals who have fled to other countries.

In a TV interview, Sun Li, deputy chief-prosecutor of the Beijing Procuratorate who participated in the UN negotiations on the treaty, stated that the convention incarnates a multilateral cooperative among all signatory countries. This cooperative will prevent and battle organized crime, including corruption, for which legal cooperation, assistance and extradition is clearly stipulated.

"If an effective cooperation is successively established, hard days would come for those fleeing corrupt suspects," said Sun, "most importantly, a system or pattern would be set up under the treaty in which one country is entitled to acquire documents, commercial or governmental, from other countries to help investigate corruption cases."

Wang Yingfan, chairman of the National People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee, described the treaty as "more rigorous than Chinese criminal law as far as stipulations for conviction of criminal acts and definition of corruption are concerned. "Apart from bribery with cash," he stressed, "acceptance of improper benefits other than in material form is also defined as corruption."

NPC delegate Shen Chunyan also pointed out that under China's current criminal law, only drug dealing, organized crime, terrorism and smuggling are associated with money laundering, but the new UN treaty gives a much wider scope that includes corruption.

Sun Li stated, "The treaty is a shock to them," when asked about its impact on those suspected of corruption who have fled to foreign countries. "Their situation will become much harder. They are already living a life in fear as fugitives in a strange place. And now with the treaty in effect, all participating countries are obliged to take measures to pursue their crimes, so their doomsday is imminent and they will not get away with it anymore."

The treaty also calls for each contracting country to extend the period under which crimes covered by the treaty can be prosecuted, especially when suspects try to evade due punishment. Such legislative measures are expected to prove helpful in terms of tracking down suspects and bringing them to trial. NPC standing committee member Yang Guoliang commented, "We need to

improve our own laws so they better accord with the treaty, and crack down on transnational crimes in a more effective way."

A Xinhua news report in early 2001 said that more than 4,000 people, mostly government officials and embezzlement and bribery suspects, have fled overseas, taking with them more than 5 billion yuan of public money.

An un-named anti-corruption investigator revealed that while such people were in the past mostly directors or managers of state-owned enterprises or commercial banks, in recent years, more and more corrupt government officials have also fled the country, taking with them embezzled or otherwise illegally acquired funds.

Sun Li said the fleeing corruption suspects fell into three categories, according to their choice of refuge; Europe or America, Asia and Africa. The choice generally reflected what sort of living standard they could afford.

Chen Manxiong and Chen Qiyuan, a married couple and former heads of state-owned Guangdong Zhongshan Industrial Development, transferred 420 million yuan from a bank through a confederate to their own company. They escaped to Thailand before the investigation started and changed their names and passports. Chen Manxiong even had cosmetic surgery and bleached his skin. They opened several companies under their false names and bought luxury villas and limousines.

The need for an international treaty has arisen from the difficulties different countries encounter when trying to apprehend such criminals. "It is hard to determine their actual whereabouts in the first place. Even though we might know the country they fled to, it is difficult to pin down their exact location," said Professor Liu Tingji, international law specialist at the China University of Politics and Law.

"Secondly, it is not easy to bring them back for trial once they are found. By the end of 2002, only 18 countries had signed bilateral extradition treaty with China, such as Mongolia, Russia and Laos. But criminals usually choose countries that have no extradition treaty with China as their safe havens," Liu said.

Liu stressed that multilateral cooperation is essential, as such problems have posed a common challenge for many countries in their attempts to crack down on corruption, which becomes an international threat once the criminal has crossed the border. "Within the framework of the new treaties, China should try to establish extradition agreements with as many countries as possible and call for international assistance, such as from Interpol, when necessary."

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Anti-hijack Rehearsal at Capital Airport

By Gao Bin/Hou Mingxin

A Boeing 747 was "hijacked" and all passengers were taken hostage by three "terrorists" at Beijing Capital Airport yesterday. An anti-hijack team stormed the cabin, shooting one of the "terrorists" and capturing the other two. All the passengers were rescued.

The "hijack" was actually an anti-hijack rehearsal, sponsored by a national

leading group in charge of handling such incidents. It was the first such action since the establishment of the group, and the largest ever of its kind held at the Capital Airport.

The purpose of the rehearsal was to test relevant departments' reaction abilities when faced with such a scenario.

About 350 people from Beijing's Public Security, Health and Fire-fighting

bureaus, as well as Capital Airport and China Xinhua Airlines participated.

Photo by Zhang Peng / Geng Zhengjin



Yuan to Maintain Stability

China has refuted recent United States criticism about its exchange rate policy, reiterating its principles of independence and responsibility in handling the issue.

"The exchange rate system and policy are a country's internal affair and no other country has the right to interfere," a spokesperson for the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said Monday.

"On this issue, China has always been independent and highly responsible, a fact on which the international community has long agreed."

Speculation that the exchange rate of the Renminbi would appreciate under foreign pressure subsided after US Treasury Secretary John Snow's visit to Beijing earlier this month.

But US commerce secretary Donald

L. Evans has since stepped up criticism, accusing China of backsliding on promises to ease restrictions on foreign companies, dismantle trade barriers and clamp down on software piracy.

The SAFE spokesperson reiterated that China will continue to maintain the basic stability of the Renminbi's exchange rate, which he said has not only helped promote China's reform and opening-up and stimulate domestic demand, but contributed to the fight against the Asian financial crisis.

"It's proven that maintaining the basic stability of the Renminbi's exchange rate benefits not only China, but also Asia and the world," he said.

US manufacturers complain that China has kept its exports artificially cheap by keeping the yuan undervalued against the dollar, resulting in

losses of US manufacturing jobs. In Congress, lawmakers are pushing for legislation that would impose import tariffs on Chinese products comparable to the amount they claim China's currency is undervalued.

"Any form of trade protectionism is unfair and a breach of World Trade Organization rules," the SAFE spokesperson said, "One should not turn the exchange rate issue into an international political issue and use it as an excuse for trade protectionism."

He added that employment problems in developed countries are unrelated to China's exchange rate policy. "Every country has its own structural adjustment, employment and reemployment problems. From 1998 to 2002, China's total secondary industry employment decreased by 8.2 million, but we never

blamed any other country."

He also noted that the main reason for China's trade and capital account surpluses is globalization – especially the transfer of production by many multinationals to the Chinese market – in addition to its narrowing of the Renminbi's floating range in 1997 as part of efforts to deal with the financial crisis.

"We never purposefully pursued a sizable surplus on the international balance of payments," the spokesperson said.

China's foreign trade surplus is actually declining. The total trade surplus fell by 66.5 percent on a year-on-year basis to US \$4.5 billion in the first half of the year, while its trade deficit with Japan more than tripled to US \$6.7 billion. (Xinhua)

City Reforms Administrative System

By Hou Mingxin

A reform plan for Beijing's municipality administrative system has been approved by the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

According to the new plan, the municipal government will consist of 45 governmental institutions and three consulting organizations.

A key component of the reform plan is the setting up of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC). The new commission will largely take the place of the City Construction Working Com-

mittee, the Industry Working Committee, the Commerce and Trade Working Committee and the Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Working Commission.

Under the principle of separating government administration from enterprise management, and separating ownership from management, SASAC will act as investor on behalf of the city; supervising and managing the state-owned assets of enterprises; and guiding and pushing forward the reform and restructuring of state-owned enterprises. SASAC will also appoint and remove top executives of those enterprises under the supervision of the cen-

tral government, and evaluate their performance.

The Commission of Development Planning will be renamed the Development and Reform Commission (DRC), taking over the roles of the Price Bureau, Economic Restructuring office and Economic Commission of Beijing Municipality.

The DRC's main responsibilities will include researching and framing economic and social development policies, promoting technology and investment managing of enterprises, economic reform, as well as all the responsibilities of the former Price Bureau.

The Commerce Bureau will super-

sede the Commerce Commission and the Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission. It will take charge of national and foreign trade, and oversee the Beijing Grain Administration and Beijing Port Office.

The Industry Promotion Bureau will be responsible mainly for carrying out research and raising development strategies and countermeasures of key industries; developing an industry information service system, boosting optimization of resources and ensuring the continuing development of key industries.

The reform is scheduled to be completed by the end of the next month.

Urban Infrastructure to Allow Private and Overseas Capital

By Hou Mingxin

According to a regulation approved by the municipal government on August 28, from October 1, private and overseas capital will be allowed to invest in and operate Beijing's urban infrastructure, which in the past was monopolized by state-owned enterprises.

The regulation covers ten classes of infrastructure, namely water, gas and

heating, drainage, sewerage, solid garbage processing, toll highways, subways, light rails and other means of city transportation, and other urban infrastructure items.

Three methods of operation will be used to operate such infrastructure.

Under the Build-Operate-Transfer method, operators will be allowed to invest in and operate the project for a limited term. At the end of that term,

operational rights revert to the government.

Under the Transfer-Operate-Transfer method, rights are transferred to the concessionary operator for a limited term, after which they revert to the government.

The third concessionary operation method specifies the scope of the urban infrastructure, specifically regarding operation of public transportation.

According to Zhou Jidong, director of the Beijing Legislative Affairs Office, the government will use market-oriented models, including public bidding and auction, when awarding concessionary operation rights.

Zhou added that the measure would benefit the city's urban infrastructure construction and boost the marketization process of the operation of the urban infrastructure.

Training Program for Government Spokespersons

The government is polishing its public image and improving media relations with a new generation of professionally trained spokespersons, according to Zhao Qizheng, director of the State Council Information Office.

Zhao made the comments Monday at an opening ceremony for a spokesperson training program, saying that the move would increase administrative transparency and promote and improve news releases.

The program will have two stages: in the first, 100 spokespersons from 66 central government departments would receive a five-day training course from September 22 to 26; the second stage, to be held at a later date, will provide training for spokespersons from provincial-level governments.

The training program, using case studies and practical exercises, will invite

senior government spokespersons and specialists from universities to give lectures on news releases, public relations and language skills.

Zhao said government spokespersons had played an important role in providing authoritative information to the media since the news release system began in 1983.

The government had realized that the timely release of major decisions, important events and breaking news would help to avoid undesirable public rumors, which sometimes triggered social unrest and chaos, he added.

All central governmental departments and most provincial governments had set up a spokesperson system, but some still did not hold regular news conferences.

"China's spokesperson system has began to take shape, but it needs further improvement," said Zhao.

(Xinhua)

UNEP Opens China Office

By Xiao Xia

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) opened an office in Beijing last Friday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, UNEP executive director Klaus Toepfer said opening the office was a response to the important progress being made in meeting environmental challenges in China, the world's largest developing country, and to the challenges lying ahead.

"With 1.3 billion people and an official goal to quadruple economic growth by 2020, China's environmental performance will not only determine the well-being of its own people but will have consequences for the whole planet," said Toepfer.

He added that he believes China has a historic opportunity to leapfrog traditional polluting technologies and to adopt sustainable production and consumption policies.

The new office will work

closely with the State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA) and other ministries, international agencies and nongovernmental organizations in implementing programs in environmental assessment, law, education and training, management, technology transfer and innovation and natural disaster prevention.

It will also develop and support projects under the Global Environment Facility, an international fund to address climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, trans-boundary water and chemical management issues.

Deputy director of SEPA Zhu Guangyao attended the official opening of the office, which will be housed with other UN agencies in Beijing.

The establishment of the China office reflects recent decisions taken by the UNEP's governing council to strengthen delivery of regional-level programs.

China Tightens Control on TV Advertising

Television advertisements for products such as medicine for beriberi and hemorrhoids, and feminine hygiene products can no longer be shown during meal times, according to the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.

The administration has issued a series of "Interim Regulations on Television Advertising" with a view to tightening control of TV advertising.

In terms of the content of advertisement, the regulations state that television stations cannot broadcast advertisements that are vulgar or may mislead consumers.

Advertisements on any one channel should constitute no more than 20 percent of the entire day's broadcast, and 15 percent between 7 pm and 9 pm.

The regulations also cut the frequency for the broadcasting of advertisements during drama serials, ruling that no single advertisement can be shown more than once during each episode and that the maximum duration for any advertisement is two-and-a-half minutes.

The regulations will take effect from January 1, 2004.

(Xinhua)

Finance Watchdogs Establish Cooperative System

By Alex Zhang

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) jointly issued a memo last Wednesday that seeks to strengthen cooperation between the three watchdogs, the CBRC web site reported.

The memo was drafted by a joint experts team set up at the beginning of June, established to identify ways to adapt to the development of financial reform, enhance cooperation, raise regulatory efficiency and ensure the stability of the financial system.

The memo clarifies information collection and communication systems among the three commissions, stating that the commissions could collect useful information separately, then gather it together to work out various kinds of data and reports, which would be publicized in related state regulations.

The statement says that the corresponding system between the three watchdogs will accelerate financial innovation, enhance financial supervision, minimize financial risk and speed the healthy development of finance.

Insurance Companies Allowed to Borrow and Lend

By Zhang Zhan

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) released a notice on September 17 that from October 1, the Chinese and local branches of joint venture and overseas insurance companies can involve in borrowing and lending through the China Foreign Exchange Trading Center.

According to SAFE, the move is intended to enhance the foreign currency liquidity of insurance companies and increase their foreign currency solvency.

The time limit for borrowing and lending operations between insurance companies is set at four months, the notice stipulates, and the total amount of the borrowing and lending should be not more than 50 percent of the company's total foreign exchange capital. Furthermore, any individual borrowing transaction should not amount to more than 10 percent of a company's total foreign exchange capital, while any single lending transaction should not amount to more than 15 percent.

Verbal Suing Allowed

By Zhang Zhan

A judicial explanation issued by the Supreme People's Court allows plaintiffs in civil cases to lodge complaints verbally, according to a Xinhua report last Thursday.

Such verbal complaints may be made when the plaintiff is unable to write one and unable or unwilling to entrust someone to write one on his or her behalf.

According to the explanation, resorting to legal action is a basic right that should not be withheld or limited as a result of education level or economic situation. Many people in rural and remote border areas have not received higher education and could neither write a legal complaint nor have the means to hire someone to represent them.

The explanation stipulates that if a plaintiff makes a case orally, the court should record his or her details, the complaint and any relevant facts. A court officer should then read the contents to the plaintiff, who should sign the document to confirm it.

Currency, Private Economy Stressed at 2003 Shanghai Forbes Global CEO Conference

By James Liu

The 2003 Forbes Global CEO Conference, the focus of which is China's role in the global economy, kicked off in Shanghai last Tuesday.

With its theme of "Energizing Global Business: The China Factor," the three-day conference has attracted approximately 400 CEOs of regional and multinational companies to discuss and debate the global economy as well as China's role in international business, finance and geopolitics. Around 130 top Chinese executives, including Zhang Ruimin, chief executive officer of Haier Group, one of China's biggest electrical appliances manufacturers, have joined the event.

The conference will include a dozen special events, most of

which revolve around topics related to economic development in China and Asia, such as the global economy, exports of Chinese-made goods, the mystery of capitalism, a conversation about leadership, banks and capital markets in China and China's entrepreneurs.

Other highlighted topics at the conference will include China's private economy and the country's currency policy.

Steve Forbes, president and editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine said at the conference's opening ceremony that China needed to keep the Renminbi stable despite international pressure to let the currency float. "Changing the currency's value is of little long-term benefit to the global economy," he stated, and suggested that gov-

ernments should focus less on currencies and more on removing barriers to economic growth, such as export taxes.

He continued that China had the potential to maintain its strong economic growth in coming years and predicted Chinese entrepreneurs, especially those from the private sector, to have an increasingly critical role in the global business arena.

According to Charles Zhang, CEO of Sohu.com, the Chinese people need to grasp the benefits a market economy can bring the whole society, not just the rich, such as creating jobs. He also said many members of the general public seem to hate the wealthy and believe the market process to be unfair.

"Fairness doesn't mean ev-

eryone gets an equal share of wealth. Instead, it means there are equal opportunities for people to create their fortunes," Zhang added, noting that public awareness of the inviolable nature of private property is still missing in this country.

Conference organizers have arranged a special forum focusing on China's private sector entitled "China's Entrepreneurs - the Growth Engine." Forbes affirmed that overall, this conference can be seen as recognition that the private economy has become a driving force behind China's development.

This is the third time that the Forbes Global CEO Conference has been held in Asia, as the 2001 session was hosted by Singapore and the 2002 session by Hong Kong.

CTEE Pitches Bad Assets to Private Investors

By Zhao Hongyi

Last Monday, Orient Asset Management Corporation signed an agreement entrusting China-Zhongguancun Technology and Equity Exchange (CTEE) to sell nearly 9 billion yuan worth of bad assets from 16 state-owned enterprises. All sales will be conducted through the exchange's online platform, www.ctee.com.cn.

It was the second group of bad assets CTEE has received since its establishment on August 15. The first batch, mostly from local enterprises with a total value of 2 billion yuan, came from Huarong, another corporation specializing in the disposal of state-owned bad assets.

Established to facilitate technology-related transactions, such as sales of patents, high-tech products or small companies under incubation in Zhongguancun, CTEE has received since its establishment on August 15. The first batch, mostly from local enterprises with a total value of 2 billion yuan, came from Huarong, another corporation specializing in the disposal of state-owned bad assets.

At a seminar held earlier last week, CTEE President Xiong Yan expressed confidence in the prospects of his online exchange center, saying it could become the largest online bad assets disposal center in northern China, if not the whole country.

Xiong's optimism is based on the belief that the four state-owned as-

sets management companies are not able to reach individual investors, while CTEE is. "By listing the assets online, we can find new buyers," he said.

Huarong had tried a number of methods to dispose of the bad assets before contacting CTEE, but to little avail.

Yang Kaisheng, Huarong's president, admitted this week in an interview with the Beijing-based *Economic Observer Daily* that China's four state-owned commercial banks have accumulated another 1.8 trillion yuan in bad assets in the past few years.

According to Yang, in the four years up to the end of this June, the four AMCs disposed of 660.9 billion yuan of bad assets (including 237.1 billion yuan offset by issuing shares) and received 112.5 billion yuan in payments, including 80 billion yuan in cash.

International Couriers Focus on Supply Chains

By Su Wei

With the value of inventories in China accounting for nearly 50 percent of the country's domestic production, the government, domestic companies and international express firms are focusing on how to make that inventory move faster, more efficiently and more securely as a major point for business growth.

At the recently-opened 2003 Forbes Global CEO Forum in Shanghai, UPS, the world's largest package delivery company, issued a statement reiterating that the free flow of goods in and out of this country was critical to further boosting Chinese exports and achieving sustainable economic growth.

Regarding improvements made to China's infrastructure to sustain economic growth, UPS has suggested that the government streamline customs and brokerage procedures to allow a seamless flow of goods and take more liberalized approaches to aviation rights and the free movement of funds in and out of this country.

UPS' press release stated an efficient supply chain, which would range from transportation of heavy freight to documents and from global supply chain management to international financial services, could give manufacturers a competitive edge.

FedEx Express (FedEx), the world's largest express transportation company, has made its own moves to provide supply chain services to its Chinese clients.

Having seen more and more companies in southern China continue to shift manufacturing and exports away from other Asian countries in order to improve efficiency, FedEx launched its first direct flight from Shenzhen to its hub in Anchorage, Alaska in the US earlier this month, providing customers across southern China with next-day delivery to North America.

Eddy Chan, regional vice president of FedEx China and Mid Pacific Region



Photos by Jackie

Consumer's Association Deflects Slander Accusation

By James Liu

The China Consumer's Association (CCA) deflected accusations of slander levied by three computer sales companies when the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court pronounced the association not guilty on all charges on September 18.

The suit was filed in August last year by Beijing Dubeier Trade, Ltd. and two other computer dealers that sell Superior (Chaoqun), Baian and Muze brand computers, which were shown to exceed national radiation limits in tests sponsored by the CCA. The companies claimed the tests sullied their reputations and caused severe economic losses, for which they demanded 3 million yuan in compensation.

In court, the CCA ar-

gued that they were authorized by the Law on Protecting Consumers' Rights and Interests to run comparison tests of commodities sold on the market, including computers.

From April to July last year, the CCA collected domestically-made computers under 20 brands and asked the China National Computer Quality Supervising Test Center to carry out comparison tests. The results indicated that nine of the brands exceeding maximum radiation emission limits. The CCA then publicly released the conclusion of the investigation.

"These three companies are not even the producers of the computers, so the tests should have no impact on their reputations," said Qiu Baochang, the lawyer repre-

senting the CCA.

When the lawsuit was filed, Qiu noted at a press conference that the manufacturers of the three brands of computers, more appropriate plaintiffs, had not filed any legal action or contested the investigation results.

After one year of investigations and discussion, the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court decided the results of the CCA's tests were conclusive and the tests themselves valid.

The three plaintiffs refused to accept the decision and have already applied to appeal the case to the Beijing Supreme People's Court.

The CCA was set up in 1984 with the approval of the State Council and now operates 3,222 branches at or above county level nationwide.

Benzes to Be Made in Beijing

By James Liu

Locally-made Mercedes Benz sedans will soon roll off a Beijing production line since DaimlerChrysler signed a cooperation agreement with Beijing Automobile Industry Holding Co., Ltd. on September 8 for the manufacture 30,000 of luxury cars and trucks each year.

DaimlerChrysler Chief Executive Juergen Schrempp confirmed at the signing ceremony held in the capital that around 25,000 C and E class Mercedes cars would be made annually in Beijing. He added that the company planned to invest around 1 billion euros in the joint venture project. The Benz production line will be housed in a new facility in the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Area in Yizhuang, to the southeast of downtown.

In the wake of this move, the stock price of China Brilliance, the joint venture partner of BMW, dropped



Mercedes E-class sedans will soon be built in Beijing. Photo by Photocome

one percent on the Hong Kong stock exchange as investors expect fierce competition between the two luxury car manufacturers.

The Beijing municipal government has named auto-making one of the city's pillar industries and has set a goal of annual local production of 500,000 automobiles in 2005, according to Li Jisheng, director of the Beijing Automobile Auxiliary Parts Localization Office.

China Leads FDI Inflow Worldwide

China has widened its lead over the US and other investment destinations worldwide as the most preferred location for foreign direct investment (FDI), according to the latest annual survey of executives from the world's largest companies conducted by management consultant A.T. Kearney.

Growth prospects, rising incomes and a vast labor pool drive China's appeal despite the temporary interruption from the outbreak of SARS earlier this year.

The US remains the second most preferred destination for FDI, but investors said the most important factor impacting US attractiveness is the country's economic recovery. Depreciation of the dollar is another critical factor. Future US FDI attractiveness could be eroded by the ongoing war on terror, the study found.

(PRNewswire)

Bell Helicopter Finds Production Partner

By Zhao Hongyi

At the China Aviation Expo 2003 held last week in Beijing, US-based Bell Helicopter signed a contract with domestic company Hafei Aviation Industry to produce helicopter parts and components in this country.

According to the contract, Hafei, one of the manufacturing wings of China Aviation Industry Corp. II (AVIC II), will manufacture airframes, horizontal tails, vertical tails, clipped wings and dashboards for Bell 430 helicopters.

The first delivery of the domes-

tically-made products is scheduled for February 2005 and Hafei will deliver its first airframe that September.

AVIC II is one of two giant enterprises, the other being AVIC I, that dominate China's aviation manufacturing industry. Its products cover military and civil aircraft such as transport, training and combat helicopters.

Bell Helicopter is part of the Textron Group, one of the world's three major producers of military helicopters, along with Eurocopter and Sikorsky Aircraft.

China Unicom Eyes CDMA-GSM Link

By James Liu

China Unicom, the nation's second-largest cell-phone company, claimed on September 17 that it had successfully tested technology created by US-based Qualcomm Inc. to link Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM), the world's two most widely used wireless standards.

This technology, known as the GSMIX standard, performed perfectly in making phone calls and wirelessly transmitting data between CDMA and GSM end points, according to Ju Zhenguo, manager of China Unicom's Suzhou branch in Jiangsu Province.

Linking the CDMA and GSM networks may aid Qualcomm's efforts to attract Chinese customers to another of its technologies, that

allows streaming data transmission so people can receive movie clips on their mobile phones. The move could also be a shot in the arm for China Unicom's struggling CDMA network, which has only 11 million users compared to the company's over 70 million GSM subscribers.

However, Ju did not say when the technology would be commercially available, or whether any handset makers have agreed to supply GSM1X phones. *Beijing Times* reported on September 22 that by the end of this month, China Unicom users of GSM phones with numbers prefixed 130 and 131 would be able to use this high speed data transfer technology and that users of 133-prefixed CDMA users would enjoy worldwide roaming service.

A&W Withdraws from Beijing

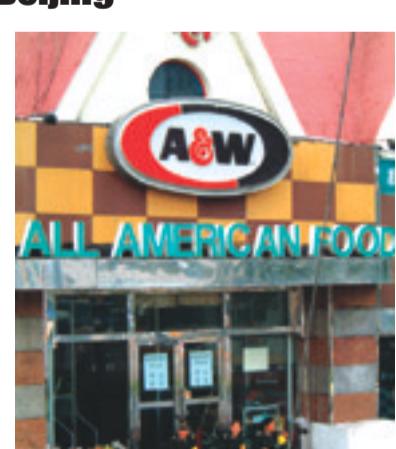
By Zhao Hongyi

American fast food chain A&W withdrew from the Beijing market last week, closing its last two restaurants left in town.

A&W expanded rapidly worldwide in the mid-1990s and started franchising in Beijing in 1996. The company's franchising business in China was overseen by contract agent Beijing Aidewei Food & Entertainment Co. The four A&W outlets in the capital generated a total annual sales volume of 100 million yuan in 1998, and by the end of 1999, there were eight outlets operating in the city.

However, behind the growth there were some serious problems. Starting in 2000, Beijing Aidewei suffered a steady drop in income and defaulted on payments of franchising fees as a result of ineffective management. In January 2002, its franchising rights from A&W expired, but the company illegally continued to continue using the American brand name.

A&W sold its franchising rights in China to Yum! Brands, formerly Tricon Global, in May 2002. Yum! Brands China immediately stopped licensing new outlets and



Signs on the doors of the A&W restaurant at Puppet Theater read: Closed. Photo by Ayi

issued a statement in March this year declaring it had no business relations with Beijing Aidewei, meaning that company's use of the A&W brand was illegal.

Earlier this year, employees at the four remaining A&W outlets run by Beijing Aidewei filed a lawsuit against the company for failing to make timely salary payments. The case is ongoing and is not expected to be resolved before the end of this year.

New Era For Motorola



Christopher Galvin AFP Photo

New York, September 23 (Investor's Business Daily) - With the resignation of its chief executive on Friday, big changes are expected for Motorola Inc. But the nature of those changes is far from certain.

Motorola - which makes cell phones, communications chips, police radios, telecom gear, cable set-top boxes and car electronics - is one of the few remaining telecom gear firms that tries to do a little of everything. Analysts believe Christopher Galvin's departure signals the board's desire to streamline the business.

Galvin's only public comment on the resignation came in a press release. He's quoted as saying "the board

(of directors) and I do not share the same view of the company's pace, strategy and progress at this stage of the turnaround."

Galvin probably thought the company could be a contender in a range of products, says Raymond James analyst Todd Koffman, who owns shares in Motorola.

Galvin, whose grandfather founded the company, became CEO in 1997. Since then, sales have fallen an average of 3% annually. Last year, four of Motorola's seven business segments lost money.

Motorola's largest and best-known business is cellular telephones. When most cell phones were analog rather than digital, Motorola was the top manufacturer. Today it's No. 2, increasingly squeezed by one large and many smaller competitors.

Motorola's second major business, semiconductors, suffered from a lack of focus and some poor strategy decisions. Motorola's chips targeted too many different markets such as cell phones, data networking gear and telecom gear. Motorola also tried to sell wireless chips to companies like Nokia and Samsung, which weren't about to

help a competitor.

As for the other businesses, Motorola was never able to distinguish its products from those of competitors, Mo-doff says.

So what's the future of Motorola? Galvin says he will remain CEO until a replacement is found. The heavy odds to replace him are on Motorola President and Chief Operating Officer Mike Zafirovski.

Zafirovski's first job at Motorola was running the cell phone business. His steps to slash costs and simplify manufacturing are widely credited with turning around the unit.

Most analysts agree the first job of the new CEO will be selling off or exiting different businesses. The question, though, is which businesses.

(Mike Angell)

Website Comment:

Motorola has established strong government relations in China. This partly explains Motorola's success in the country.

But Motorola is facing fiercer market competition in the country, both

from competitors like Sony-Ericsson, Siemens and Alcatel, and local mobile phone manufacturers like TCL, Bird and more.

Chinese mobile phone manufacturers are developing their R&D capabilities and producing more components and parts by themselves.

A slow market is a bigger challenge to Motorola China. The number of mobile phone users in China has reached 240 million, and further market increases will not be as great as before. The potential market for mobile phones in the country lies in rural areas, where domestic manufacturers have more advantages.

One year ago, Galvin announced a \$1 billion investment initiative to expand the semiconductor manufacturing base in Tianjin. But the IT bubble's breakup and competition from semiconductor manufacturers from Taiwan, such as SMIC, have caused serious problems for Motorola.

Last, but not least, the ups and downs of the political relations between China and the US have also had an impact, direct and indirect, on Motorola's business expansion in China.

— September 24, eNetNews

NYSE Seek Grasso Replacement

New York, September 23 (AFP) - The New York Stock Exchange board has appointed a search committee to find an interim chairman to replace Richard Grasso, ousted this week amid an outcry over his 140-million-dollar pay package.

The board named Laurence Fink, an NYSE director and chairman of BlackRock, to head the search panel.

The nine-member committee will also include former US secretary of state Madeleine Albright; Mel Karmazin, president and chief executive of Viacom Inc.; and Gerald Levin, former CEO of AOL Time Warner.

"This committee will define the role of the interim chairman and recommend an individual to fill that role," said H. Carl McCall, who presided over the meeting as the lead director.

The Grasso affair sparked a crisis of confidence and highlighted the lack of oversight at an organization that was itself charged with ensuring good governance at the companies whose shares are traded in the market.

Some members of the investment community said Grasso's pay package -- which was higher than most of the chief executives at big companies -- highlights a need for more reforms at the quasi-regulatory NYSE.

Analyst's Take:

The NYSE is operated in a corporate structure, different from the membership structure in China. Members of the board are also executive managers, so corruption sometimes occurs.

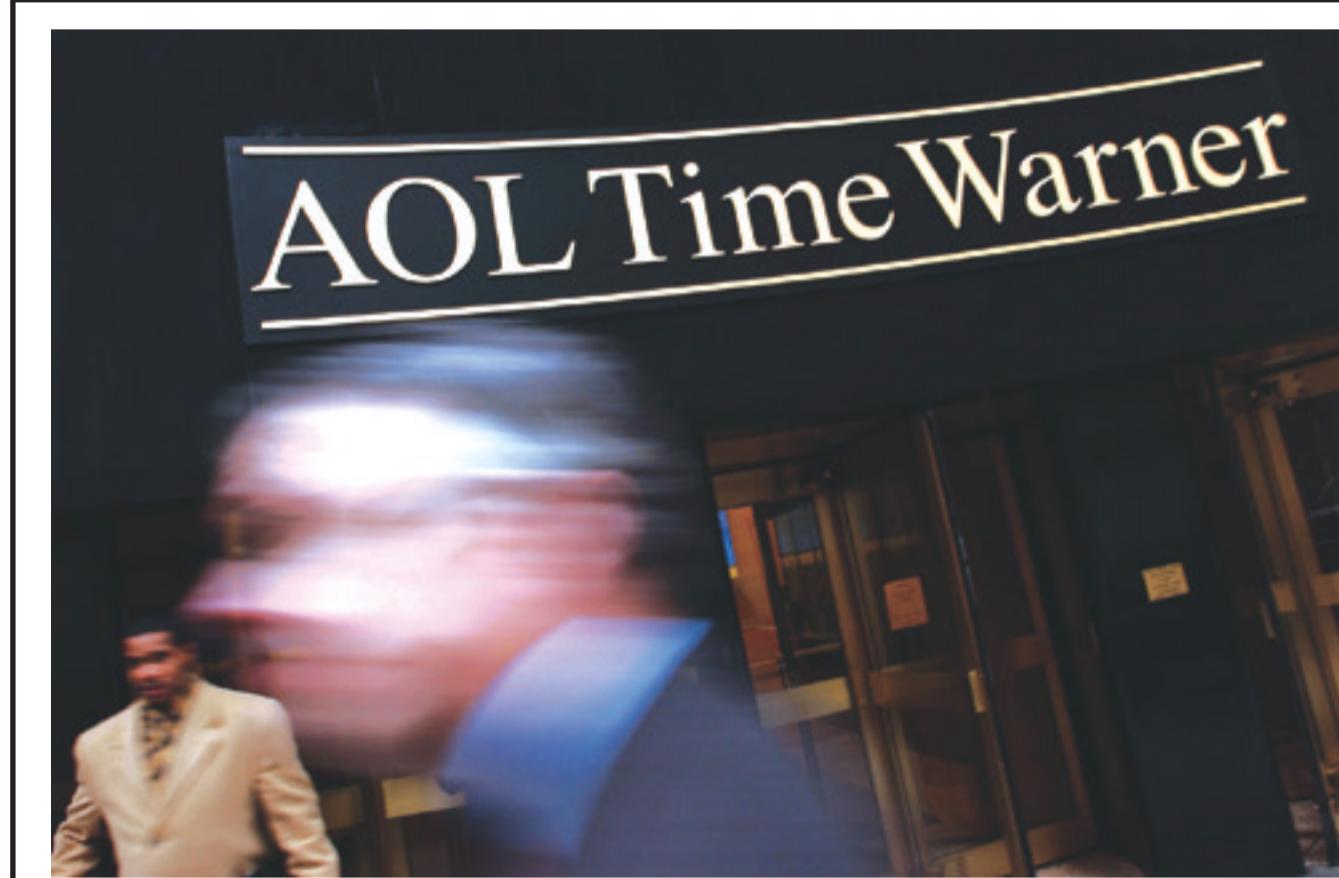
But in the US, the sophisticated legal system can find these problems and protect the benefits of small investors.

In China, the membership structure of our stock market is supervised by the administrative organizations, such as China Securities Regulatory Commission. We also need supervision from administrative organizations.

But in the end, which structure is used is not the most important consideration. Morality is more important, both in capitalism and socialism.

The lessons and warnings from Grasso's story are that transparency in decision-making should be reinforced. Balancing benefits of all parties is a must. Last but not least, we should choose a better system, if we do not have the best, because a better system can prevent more problems from occurring.

— Zhao Xijun, vice director, Finance and Securities Institute, Renmin University of China



Time Warner Drops AOL

New York, September 19 (AP) - Hoping to leave the broken hopes of the Internet era behind, the world's largest media company is dropping "AOL" from its name, and will now be known simply as Time Warner Inc.

It's the same name the company used prior to January 10, 2000, when it announced that it was agreeing to be purchased by a Virginia-based Internet company for more than \$160 billion in stock.

Since then, the company's value has dwindled, AOL's own problems have mounted, and the dreams of media revolution that drove the deal have been declared dead. The executives who put the merger together have been forced out, and Time Warner management has been put back in charge.

The changes will be phased in over

the next several weeks, affecting the company's logo, the name of its new headquarters building, and even its ticker symbol, which will revert to the former "TWX" from the current "AOL."

Now, AOL is the company's biggest embarrassment. AOL is still profitable, but it's facing a host of problems, including a regulatory inquiry into its accounting and an eroding subscriber base as users drop AOL for faster connections to the Internet.

In a memo to employees, Parsons said the company was delivering on its goals of debt reduction and turning around AOL. "We've also devoted a good deal of attention to revitalizing company morale," he wrote.

AOL Time Warner has said it is not contemplating a sale or spinoff of the AOL division, focusing instead on trying

to fix the problems there.

AOL Time Warner isn't the only company going through an identity crisis. Vivendi Universal is also considering a name change after the French company, which started out as a water utilities conglomerate, completes a deal to merge its Universal entertainment assets with General Electric Co.'s NBC. Vivendi took on the Universal name after it bought the properties from Seagram Co., the Canadian beverage maker.

The company once known as WorldCom Inc. announced in April that it would change its name to MCI, the name of its long-distance carrier, as it moved to distance itself from a major accounting scandal. And cigarette maker Philip Morris changed its name to Altria Group Inc. (Seth Sutel)

Seattle Voters Reject Espresso Tax



Reuters Photo

Seattle (Reuters) - Seattle voters have poured cold water on plans to tax espresso coffee to help poor children, deciding that a 10 cent per cup tax was just too much to swallow.

With 97 percent of the vote counted, 68 percent of voters said no to the proposed tax on every cup of espresso or

espresso-based coffee sold in the home town of Starbucks.

Espresso enthusiasts hailed the coffee tax rebuff. "As we said all along, this is the wrong way to fund child care," said Stephanie Bowman, coordinator for Joined to Oppose the Latte Tax (JOLT). The tax money would have been used to fund day care for poor children.

"Everybody should be paying for these programs, not just coffee drinkers. Not with a gimmick like the Seattle latte tax," Bowman said.

Starbucks, Tully's Coffee Corp. and small coffee shops had argued that there were no grounds for a tax on espresso since it singled out coffee for taxation and would hurt store sales.

While protesters against the espresso taxes all said they supported child care,

they called the plan a "slippery" slope because other everyday products could be targeted to pay for public services.

"We were very disappointed of course," said Anya Waring, campaign manager for the espresso tax initiative. "We thought it was going to be a lot closer."

The result defied expectations by supporters for the Early Learning and Child Care campaign, which sponsored the initiative and collected signatures from more than 35,000 people to get the proposition on Tuesday's ballot.

Under the proposed tax, called Initiative 77, regular drip coffee would have been exempt from the espresso tax.

Various local polls had predicted that 65 percent to 75 percent of Seattle residents would support the initiative.

(Reed Stevenson)

Afghanistan Licenses Commercial Banking

Kabul, September 20 (AFP) - Britain's Standard Chartered Bank Plc. and National Bank of Pakistan are to receive licenses to operate in Afghanistan this week, marking the opening of a private commercial banking system in the war-ravaged country.

President Hamid Karzai signed new laws governing the banking system and the independence of the central bank which are expected to help promote international trade and business.

"Afghans are rich people, their money is in other countries and I want them to bring their money to Afghanistan and put it in safe banks here," he said.

ING Bank Sues JP Morgan, Deloitte

New York, September 23 - ING Bank says it lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of fraud at now-defunct National Century Financial Enterprises Inc.

ING contends J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. (JPM) and Deloitte & Touche LLP assisted National Century, once one of the nation's largest health-service financing providers, with running a financial shell game.

National Century, a closely held Dublin, Ohio, company, collapsed in 2002. The company sold as much as \$3.25 billion of notes in private placements between 1999 and 2002 to purchase and securitize accounts receivables from health care companies.

Federal authorities in Ohio have said the company provided false offering documents, monthly reports and accounting records to investors, and sought to trick its trustees and auditors.

Fiorina Quits Cisco Board

San Jose, California, September 18 (AP) - Hewlett-Packard Co. chief executive Carly Fiorina will step down from Cisco Systems Inc.'s board of directors in November, according to a regulatory filing made public Thursday.

Fiorina, who has been on the networking company's board since January 2001, chose not to stand for re-election, according to Cisco.

Cisco will not immediately name a replacement candidate. Its bylaws allow for a board of anywhere from eight to 15 members.



The information boards at Copenhagen International Airport in Denmark are empty Tuesday, September 23, 2003, following a power outage which hit southern Sweden and eastern Denmark.

AP Photo

Millions Without Power in Denmark, Sweden

Copenhagen, Denmark, September 23 (AP) - A power cut struck the capitals of Denmark and southern Sweden on Tuesday afternoon, leaving nearly 4 million people without electricity.

Utility officials said a faulty transmission line between the two countries was to blame. They said it was being repaired and most customers would likely have power restored before nightfall.

Traffic signals and lights in offices, shops and homes went dark just after noon in Copenhagen, a city of 1.8 million people. The capital's commuter rail system also came to a halt, police said.

Police did not suspect sabotage or terrorism. (Jan M. Olsen)

Top Bankers Rated

US GlobalFinanceMagazine has handed out its ratings of the world's top bankers. China's central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan rated B, while two top cheeses who are soon to retire, the Fed's Alan Greenspan and the European Central Bank's Wim Duisenberg, drop to D.

The magazine unveiled its latest evaluation report on central bank governors in nearly two hundred countries and economic entities around the world. The evaluation is based on influence in world financial markets.

Toshihiko Fukui of Japan's central bank was listed at B level but Park Seung of South Korea got an A.

Subway Ads Advise AIDS Awareness

By Zeng Pengyu/Wang Fang

Before October 1, China's National Day, 40 new illuminated public service billboards with the theme of "Preventing AIDS" will be installed in Beijing subway stations. Beijing Topresult Advertising Company is sponsoring the ad campaign, forgoing what would normally total around 1 million yuan in placement fees.

According to the Health Education Center under the Chinese Center for Diseases Control and Prevention of

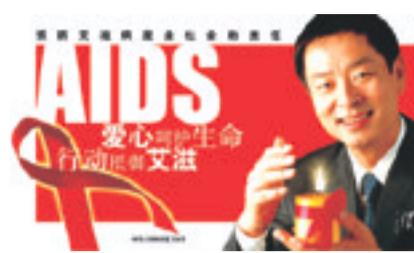
the Ministry of Public Health, the driving force behind the campaign is actor Pu Cunxi. Pu appears on the ads, which carry the slogan, "Care for Life, Act to Prevent AIDS."

Wang Xinlun, director of the Health Education Center, told *Beijing Today* that because the subway is one of the major routes of mass transportation in this city, it is ideal for conducting a public AIDS education drive.

"In the past, we used posters, but they don't last a long time and were

less effective than we had expected. We hope that the 'Prevent AIDS' ads on Beijing buses and subways will be as well accepted as previous blood donation advertising campaigns were," he said.

The public service ads will be posted from October 2003 to January 2004. Wang Shuo from Beijing Topresult Advertising said that the displaying period contains hot spots, such as the National Day and Spring Festival holidays.



The billboards feature actor Pu Cunxi and read, "Care for Life, Act to Prevent AIDS."

Photo by Zeng Pengyu

Underground Vendors Get the Boot

By Hans Leu

Many subway commuters stopped in their tracks at the Xidan station on September 18 when they saw advertisements for huge sales flapping in the breeze. The rushed sales campaign is being run by the 46 small shops inside the station that face forced closure by the end of this month.

On September 8, 80 bookstalls and other small vendors in stations on the first loop line were dismantled, part of a larger campaign aimed at improving the city's subway security system. The removal of the stands was proposed earlier this year by the State Council's security supervision team following an inspection of the capital's subway system.

Although they have been promised compensation by the Beijing Subway

Group, the operator of the city's underground system, most stall owners will suffer significant losses. Xu Yan, owner of a clothes shop at the Xidan station, said that when he received notice on September 6 that all stands in the area would be closed, he still had 50,000 worth of goods in stock. That left him facing the impossible task of selling off all the goods and finding a new stall to rent in just 20 twenty days.

The aim of the clean-up campaign is to make sure escape routes are clear in case of fires, blackouts or other emergencies. A total of 36 million has been earmarked for refitting and improving the city's subway guidance system and fluorescent signs indicating emergency exits will be installed in all stations.

Wang Dexing, chairman of the

board of Beijing Subway Group, said that the removal project was taken into serious consideration following the blackout that struck the eastern US and Canada last month and the February fire that swept through a subway train in the South Korean city of Daegu, killing 182 people.

According to Wang, construction of Beijing's subway network began in 1965 and many of its security systems are inadequate and badly out of date, a dangerous situation made worse by the mushrooming of small bookstands and retail stalls. Such encroachment is particularly risky at sections of the western line, where there are many narrow platforms and passages.

However, it seems the public is not completely convinced of the campaign's merit. Xu Hui, a programmer

at a local IT company, commutes to the office by subway everyday. "I don't think this is the right decision," he said. "I always buy newspapers and books at subway stalls. Reading the paper can make my daily ride less tiring. Plus, few newsstands above ground open early on winter mornings. I have been to Japan, and they have bookstalls in their subway stations."

Also against the move are major newspapers, which get nearly one-twentieth of their total retail sales income from subway stations.

Wang Dexing explained that the Beijing Subway Group would also suffer losses as a result of the stall removal project, but the company was still determined to continue the campaign because passenger security should be top priority.

Hundreds More Courtyards Saved

By Chen Ying

Following the listing of Beijing's first batch of 200 protected *siheyuan*, or traditional courtyard houses, under a municipal government project on July 16, another 339 courtyards were put under the shield of official protection on Tuesday.

In front of the now protected courtyard at No. 9 Dongtaijiang Hutong near Xidan in Xicheng District on Tuesday, Mei Ninghua, director of the Beijing Bureau of Cultural Relics said, "The bureau has worked to finish the job of issuing and hanging all the required metal signs marking protected *siheyuan* before the National Day vacation."

There are many *siheyuan* in Xicheng, Dongcheng, Xuanwu and Chongwen districts, central areas of old imperial Beijing. However, their numbers are dropping, as many have been and are slated to be demolished as part of the city's push to reconstruct dangerous, old residences in these areas.

Acting on the authority of the municipal government, the bureau conducted a survey and investigation of the *siheyuan* left in Beijing's four central districts in March last year. For a long time, the large number of courtyards around town kept them from being legally recognized as cultural relics. "However, *siheyuan* will become immovable cultural relics if they can get the title of protected sites from government departments above the district level," Mei said, emphasizing such recognition would be a crucial step towards finally preserving Beijing's old courtyards.

Mei hinted that with these measures to protect courtyards and their surrounding areas, whole *hutong* home to several protected *siheyuan* could themselves be saved. He added that the bureau planned to focus on restoring the preserved courtyards as a next step.

According to Mei, "Some regulations on the protection *siheyuan* will be issued at the beginning of next year or even at the end of this year, but it may still take more time to put courtyard protection into actual law."

Beijing Today first reported on the *siheyuan* protection campaign on July 25 and August 1.



The courtyard at No. 9 Dongtaijiang Hutong near Xidan is among those now protected.

Photo by Cao Boyuan

Historic Swine Sculpture Returns Home

By James Liu

Lost for 143 years, a copper sculpture of a pig's head used as an ornament in the Yuanmingyuan (Old Summer Palace) returned to Beijing on September 19 and was added to the collection of the state-owned Poly Art Museum.

The homecoming of the national treasure, snagged when invading British and French troops looted the palace in 1860, was made possible by Hong Kong businessman Stanley Ho, who made a donation of about HK\$7 million (US\$900,000) to the China Cultural Development Fund for the reclaiming of the relic from a New York art collector.

The head was one in a series of copper sculptures of men with animal heads representing the 12 signs in the Chinese zodiac. It stood by a fountain built at the palace in 1760.

In 2000, the China Poly Group

bought also the ox, monkey and tiger sculptures from that set for HK\$33 million (US\$4.2 million) at auctions in Hong Kong.

Jiang Yingchun, director of the museum, said that the four sculptures are worth what was paid for them. Some people in China, however, have argued that the country should stop buying stolen cultural relics and simply demand their return through international conventions.

China signed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention of 1970 and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law of 1995, said Zhou Lin, a professor in the Intellectual Property Center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Under those conventions, stolen or illegally exported cultural objects can be recovered," Zhou added. "Unfortunately some countries, including the US and Britain, didn't sign the

two conventions. It's hard to imagine China could ask to give back stolen or illegally exported objects based on these conventions at present."

According to Jiang, the four sculptures will be displayed together at the Poly Art Museum beginning around October 18.



The \$900,000 copper pig head

Peking Man Skull Stars in First Show



The priceless skullcap is being kept under tight security.

Photo by Gloom

By Wang Xiaoxiao

The fossilized skull of the prehistoric "Peking Man," found in the outskirts of Beijing in 1966, made its public debut last Sunday at the Peking Man Site Museum in Zhoukoudian. The owner of the skull is believed to have lived nearly 500,000 years ago.

The bone is the only one of its kind and has been classified as a special-class natural treasure. Two armed police-

men accompanied the small convoy that transported the skull from the Research Institute of Paleontology and Paleoanthropology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Xicheng District to Zhoukoudian, where it is being displayed in a bombproof glass case protected with extensive electronic alarms and surveillance devices.

The exhibition of the treasured cranium will run until October 7.

Grape Grabbers Bound for Jail

By Su Wei/Hu Rong

Three of four migrant workers from Henan Province that had been held in detention by the Haidian Branch of the Beijing Bureau of Public Security since early August for helping themselves to some experimental grapes were officially arrested by the Haidian People's Procuratorate on September 12.

The other man, 16, received 15 days of administrative detention by the Haidian police because he was only charged with the minor crime of possession of the grapes.

Beijing Today first reported their story on August 15. The harsh treatment of the men is due to the fact that the fruit they grabbed were experimental grapes being grown as part of research project by the Forestry and Fruit Institute under

the Beijing Academy of Agri-Forestry Sciences. That institute has invested nearly 400,000 yuan in the grape-growing project since 1993.

According to an analysis report prepared by the institute, losses from the grape theft total slightly over 20,000 yuan, including labor costs, the effect of the missing fruits on the whole project and other factors.

After assessing the institute's claims, the Beijing Pricing Bureau arrived at a figure of 11,200 yuan for total economic losses caused by the fruit filching. The police made a public statement explaining the final figure was based on the fact that the grapes were not viable commercial products.

The three men were arrested for committing theft, not for willfully destroying production or operation.

charges some legal experts predicted them to face in mid-August. One reason behind the limited charges is that there is no legal precedent for scientific research projects being considered a form of production or operation.

The other reason is that police say that the migrant workers' poor educational backgrounds did not give them a basis to calculate the real value of the grapes. Three of the men only have primary education and the fourth is a junior middle school graduate.

According to China's Criminal Law, people charged with theft of goods worth over 10,000 yuan qualify as having committed severe crimes and can be sentenced to three to 10 years imprisonment.

However, the Haidian police released a statement earlier this month stating that the court would have the final say in how long the arrested migrants would spend in jail.

RIP, Fluffy

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijingers have a new way to remember beloved pets with the opening of the city's first pet crematorium and memorial hall on September 19.

The raising of pets was forbidden in the 1960s and 1970s and labeled symbolic of a bourgeois lifestyle not in line with class struggle and supporting the rise of the proletariat.

The climate towards pets began changing in the capital in the 1980s, and the number of domestic animals, mostly cats and dogs, exploded into the hundreds of thousands since the mid-1990s.

Unfortunately, the rise in the pet population has not been matched by increased respect of animals among the human population. Though a small number of private pet clinics have opened in the past several years, there are still far too few animal care facilities in the capital. Moreover, when pets die, many owners simply toss their bodies in with the garbage, bury them wherever convenient or discard the animals on the street.

Several years ago, the Beijing Association of Pets and Animals Protection purchased a 500 square meters plot of land in an eastern outskirts of Beijing for use as a pet cemetery, but the tiny area was soon filled to capacity. This time, the association has cooperated with the Beijing Bo'ai Pets Service Center to build the more sustainable small crematorium at Xingdian Village in Changping District.

Cremation fees are reasonable, ranging from 500 to 800 yuan, depending on pet size.

A memorial house with 1,000 small storage areas for pets' remains has been built near the crematorium. Rental of one space costs 100 yuan per year, though bereaved owners can opt to take the ashes with them to dispose of as they wish.

People are also invited to bury their deceased pets in a nearby, forested cemetery. For 500 yuan, they can plant a tree on the plot and bury a pet underneath it.

Pets Compete at Furry Meet

By Chen Ying

The first Beijing Pets Sports Meet will be held at the Beijing Guodu Pets Park from October 1 to 6. Established last October, this center for the display and sale of different kinds of pets is the only facility of its kind in China.

The six-day pets sports meet is intended to be an interactive, fun family event that will also support animal vendors at the park.

Aside from the usual dogs and cats, visitors will be able to watch birds, reptiles, exotic small mammals, amphibians and fish race, and then get a more hands-on experience at an amazing petting zoo. Animal performances will be run regularly during the event.

The focus of the meet is caring for and respecting animals. Park staff will be on hand to provide visitors with free training sessions for their dogs or cats, as well as to explain and promote different pet-related products.

The first three days of the meet will be used as a "warm-up" period, while formal pet competitions will be run from October 4 to 6. Admission to the event is 5 yuan per person per day.

The park is located at Qingheying, around 10 kilometers northeast of Yayuncun (the Asian Games Village) in Chaoyang District.



Pooch hurdles are among the events at the pet meet.

US Helps Shaanxi Flood Victims

By Sun Ming

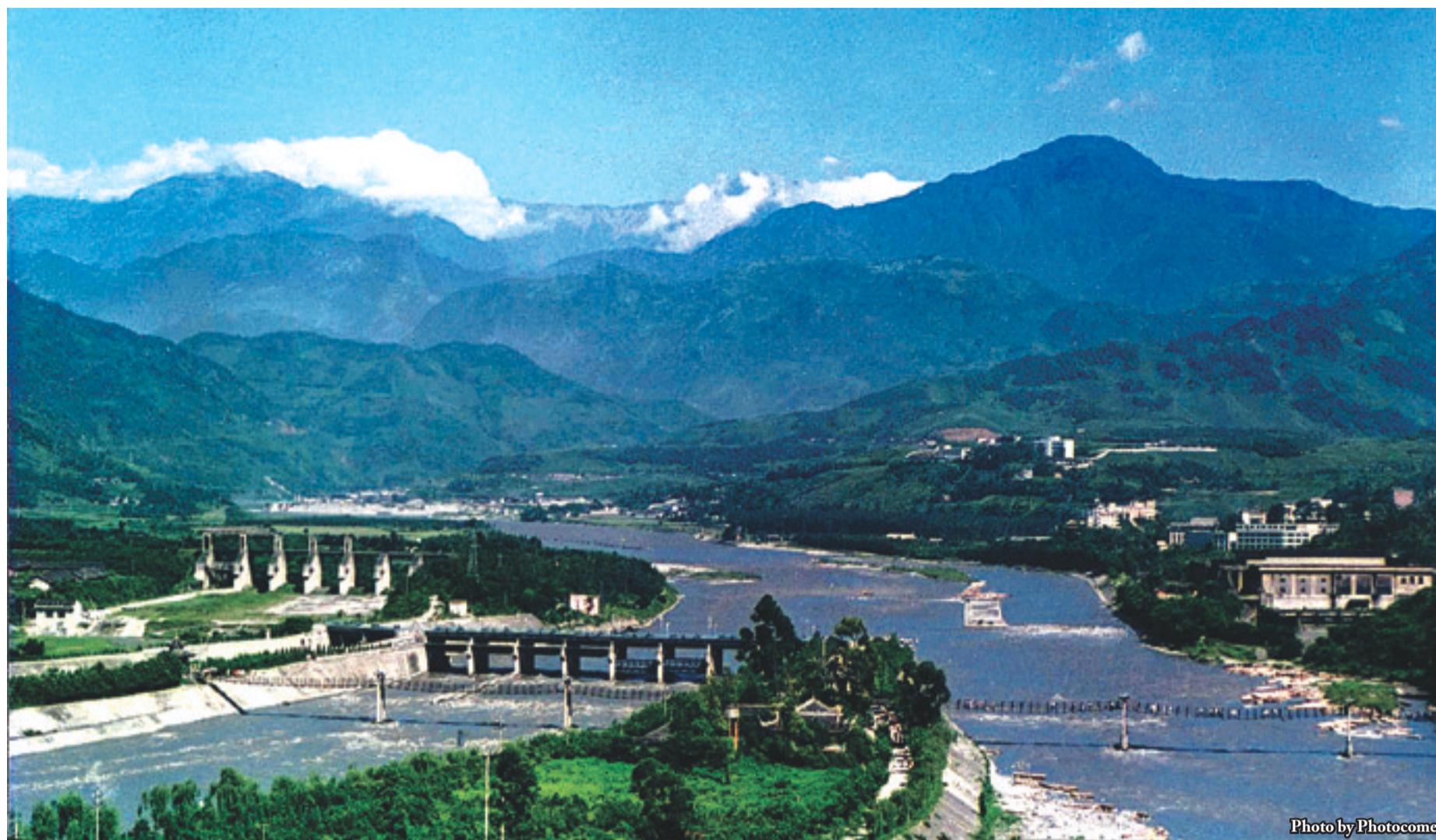
The US government has donated \$100,000 to help victims of heavy flooding in northwest China's Shaanxi Province rebuild their homes.

From August 24 to September 20, over 4.5 million people in 65 counties of Shaanxi were affected by floods that left 64 people dead.

US Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt Jr. presented the donation to Sun Aimin, vice chairman of the Red Cross Society of China at a ceremony on Wednesday at the American embassy.

Randt expressed sympathy to the flood victims on behalf of the American government and people.

"The Red Cross Society of China will send these funds to the neediest people as soon as possible and strictly supervise their distribution and use," said Sun.



Dujiangyan Saved?

By Hans Leu

If construction of the Yangliuhu dam in Sichuan had been carried out, Dujiangyan weir, a World Cultural Heritage site, would have become obsolete. The weir has been diverting water for irrigation purposes and helping to avert floods for more than 2000 years. For now at least, it has won a stay of execution.

During the 16th regular meeting of the Sichuan provincial government on August 29 2003, construction of Yangliuhu dam was voted down. It was decided that protecting the historical relic was more important.

Dujiangyan weir was constructed nearly 2300 years ago to divert water and irrigate arid areas of land across Chengdu plain. It's had a unique value in historical studies, social evolution and economic development. It also has value as a tourist attraction. Indeed, Dujiangyan is still in use today, proving the amazing efficacy of

its original design.

However, the construction of the Zipingpu Power Plant was initiated on March 29, 2001, requiring the building of a dam near the old weir. The plan was to build the Yangliuhu dam, 23 meters high and 1,200 meters long, about a kilometer upstream from Dujiangyan. The scientists who had failed to stop construction of the power plant said that even without the dam, it damaged the original functions of the weir significantly.

But thanks to the participation of government officials, scientists, the media and environmental protection volunteers, the Yangliuhu Reservoir project has at least been shelved for now.

However, at this moment, many dams are being built on rivers throughout the west of China. Ecologists say that damming of rivers might cause results even more disastrous than cutting down forests. No one can promise that Dujiang-

yan will not be destroyed in the future. What should our generation do to protect the heritage that has been contributing to human life for centuries? Opinions follow:

Deng Chongzhu, senior consultant of the Dujiangyan Human and Natural Cultural Heritage Agency

The Dujiangyan weir diverted half the water of the Min River eastward to irrigate the plain through a dense network of channels. The weir has survived a number of disasters during its 2258-year history, largely because it was built to channel the water rather than to block it. The average life span of modern Chinese reservoirs is fifty years, and that of the ones in the US is 300 years. The long life span of the Dujiangyan weir proves the correctness of its design concept.

Zhou Xiaozheng, professor of Beijing University
China's cultural relics and scenic

spots are symbols of our nation's civilization, and also the common wealth of the whole world. We should take responsibility for protecting them. Water projects influence the natural environment and human life hugely. Decisions on construction of water management projects should be transparent and public debate should be weighed in the decision. Public participation can contribute to the reduction of the cost of social development and sustainable development as well.

Zhang Renzhong, engineer in charge of demonstrating the feasibility of the Yangliuhu Project

Without the Yangliuhu dam, the Zipingpu power station cannot function properly. It means the government cannot recoup its huge investment and will have to bear annual losses of about 50 million yuan. Also, the Yangliuhu project could protect Dujiangyan from flood water.

How Deep is Your Love?

By Wang Xiaoxiao

A couple in Chongqing sparked a fierce nationwide debate after signing a "love contract" in a local law office. *Chongqing Economic News* broke the story on September 10th.

The contract contained seven chapters with 15 rules, relating to every possible situation in their relationship, such as sticking to appointments, responsibility and the right to privacy.

Zhou Xuemei (22 years old) came up with the idea and asked her boyfriend Li Jun (26 years old) but was refused. Li Jun thought signing a contract would make their love less romantic. But Zhou said she'd heard of many lovers being hurt in the wake of breaking up by their former partner spreading private details. She thought signing a contract would help avoid any such trouble.

As news of this contract spread, it sparked debate in the nation's internet chat rooms and media. Some agreed with it, saying it revealed the

essence of real love. A love contract can perhaps help stabilize a relationship. After all, people generally behave according to rules and love is no different. Supporters of the contract say there is no need to make a fuss over it, that this is just a realistic attitude towards life.

But some people think that love cannot be legally defined. People can't stipulate what the obligations are for a couple and sometimes it's difficult to tell right from wrong. Opinions follow:

Yu Jie, 23, student

A love contract? It sounds interesting. But say the girl writes in the contract that the

I wouldn't do that with my boyfriend. Never ever. My boyfriend would be angry with me if I asked him to promise me something in the contract. He would think that I didn't trust him and this could end our love.

— Lin Yufei

boyfriend should, for instance, pick her up every day after work, and her boyfriend doesn't have any objection and is willing to do so. Does it mean that the boyfriend is breaking the contract if he fails to turn up because of something urgent? And does he have to make it up to her according to what the contract says, for example, paying damages? I don't think this is necessary. They should be better at telling what is wrong or right themselves than the contract.

Jin Keke, Lawyer, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

First I want to say such a contract is totally invalid. According to civil

law, no one has the right to limit someone's freedom of behavior if it is not against the law. In fact it's illegal, even if they have each signed the contract willingly. Secondly, to disclose other people's private information without permission is always illegal and people should be responsible for it. You don't need to write that in a so-called love contract.

Lin Yufei, 25, girlfriend

No, I don't understand their thinking. I wouldn't do that with my boyfriend. Never ever. My boyfriend would be angry with me if I asked him to promise me something in the contract. He would think that I didn't trust him and this could end our love. People split up for many reasons, but not everyone wants to hurt their former partner. It depends on why they split up and their characters. It's immoral to expose other peoples' private details and a bad guy might speak ill of his former lover no matter whether a contract had been signed.

SOUND BITES

"This election comes at a time of great change for the party, and it proves this party is the party of the people, and of promoting reforms."

— Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, was re-elected as leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Sept. 21. He has filled several key party positions and is readying a new lineup for his cabinet.

Koizumi is expected to call a parliamentary election in the next couple of months, with a poll possible in November. And if he can pitch the LDP to victory on his populist coattails, Koizumi may well become Japan's longest

serving prime minister for more than 30 years.

"Galileo is one of the most successful outer worlds missions that the Earth has ever launched. This space-craft has given us some unbelievable discoveries."

— Colleen Hartman, NASA's director of solar system exploration. The resilient robot ship that has explored Jupiter and its moons for eight years will dive into the crushing atmosphere of the giant planet Sunday, a spectacular finale to one of the most productive deep-space missions ever.

"Latvians understand this is a de-

cisive moment! You people will have a big role to play in the EU. Take advantage of it."

— Latvian Prime Minister Einars Repse congratulated some 2,000 cheering young people at an old town square in Riga on Sunday. Latvians have voted decisively to join the European Union, with nearly 70 percent of voters favoring entry. The yes vote is expected to be a boost for the EU, embarrassed by Sweden's decision last week to reject the euro.

"Terrorism will only be defeated if we act to solve the political disputes or long-standing conflicts that generate support for it. If we do not,

we shall find ourselves the recruiting sergeant for the very terrorists we seek to suppress."

— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at a roundtable conference attended by world leaders discussing policies against terrorist attacks. Though not speaking directly about the US-led war on Iraq that sidestepped UN approval, Annan stated that nations delude themselves if they think military force alone can defeat terrorism. He reiterated his belief that nations working through multilateral institutions like the United Nations offered a better approach.

By Jerry Ho

Readers & Leaders

Flourishing

Chinglish

By Lisa Carducci

In December 2002, *Beijing Youth Daily* invited readers to communicate with them when they discovered English mistakes in the Capital city's public writings.

China Daily published a phone number where Beijing residents could report mistaken English signs in the city. I reported three. One was happily corrected: a "Taxi wait" became a "Taxi stand". One was mistakenly corrected: the "White goat store-serve" is now the "White goat (goat) supermarket". The last one, "Booking Office" and "Checking Office", remained "offices" in the old subway stations, and we still have to "book" a ticket before taking the subway, but at least the new stations didn't repeat these mistakes.

Last year, I picked up a parcel at the Post Office. The sign over the counter said "Baggage draw office." When making the employee notice it was hard to understand for a foreigner, she said, "Many foreigners told us it was wrong." She asked her boss to come, and the boss, paper and pencil in hand, asked me how it should be written. I answered that I would write "Parcel pick-up", but added that like many other foreigners in Beijing, English was not my mother tongue, and before changing the sign, they had better ask a native English speaker. Recently, I returned to look at the change, and saw "Package drawing." What a pity!

Other funny signs may be seen in Beijing. How do you ask politely for people to keep off the grass? Just write: "Please take care of the flowers." How do you forbid smoking? "No smoking!" And if you see "DON'T BE OPEN AHEAD NO GOING" at a certain point on the Great Wall, it's probably because you already passed the allowed limits...

During the SARS period (remember?), there was a "Fever Patient Triage" sign at a "Temperature checkpoint". Did they sort people or did they check them for fever? Is fever an illness or a symptom of illness?

At the famous Mr. Lee's California Beef Noodle King USA, we can read on bowls "P.C.Cal", probably for "People's Republic of California."

As parking lots don't have walls, how can they have a north "door"? But they could have a north exit or a south entrance.

"To take notice of safe the slippery are very crafty", has long been seen in downtown Beijing. I think this sign produces more laughter than safety consciousness.

Guess what the Beijing Baojie Circumstance Protection Co. does? They protect the environment (huanjing in Chinese) and they probably study Latin during their free time because they know that "circumstance" and "environment" both come from the same Latin source.

Finally, the Chinese are willing to help foreigners feel at ease in China and understand what is going on. This is the intention behind a large sign in golden letters, which may have cost a lot: BJZKATGN-JSKFYXGS. I for one can guess BJ stands for Beijing, but what about the other 14 letters?

I must say that I appreciate the efforts the Chinese go to in studying English, but if they want to meet their objective for the 2008 Olympic Games, they will have to take it seriously. Chinglish not only puzzles foreigners, but it also gives a bad image of a "quality city."

But don't worry, Chinese friends, it's not only you. In Canada, a bilingual country, I have seen, in New Brunswick Province, a word for word translation: "Ne pas trépasser" (Do not trespass); the awkward thing is that "trespass" in French means "to die"! And in Ontario Province, on the river bank, without reading the English version, how could one understand the meaning of (I retranslate from French): "Remain outside the beyond of this panel" for "Do not enter the water beyond this point"?

We welcome your letters and articles, preferably around 700 words. Please give your full name, current address and phone number (not necessarily for publication). You can email us at comment@ynet.com or fax us at (010) 6590 2525.

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Beijing Today.

By Su Wei

From July last year to July this year, 41 cases involving 50 security guards charged with committing crimes have been handled by Haidian People's Procuratorate. The number is nearly as high as the total number of such cases for the whole of Beijing from 1999 to 2000.

In Beijing, the number of security guards has been rising by nearly 400 per month since 2000 and has reached around 60,000. Services provided by these security guards include monitoring, patrolling and guarding gates in a variety of places, such as companies, living communities and entertainment venues.

Coming in from the countryside

According to China's General Security Association, 89 percent of security guards in the country have an educational background at or below the level of junior middle school. Of these, less than 50 percent have stayed at school beyond their first year.

Most of the 50 security guards handled by Haidian People's Procuratorate were from rural areas such as Hebei, Henan and Shandong.

Theft is the most common crime, followed by violent quarrels.

In a case handled by Haidian police in the middle of August this year, three suspects, Wang Yongjian, Zheng Jianghu and Hao Dacheng, had committed over 20 robberies in living communities and underpasses in Haidian and Chaoyang districts since June 2001. Wang and Hao were security guards at a lamp wholesale market and Zheng was a security guard at a hotel. Wang has been on the run from Jiangsu police since November 1998, having committed a number of previous robberies.

Kou Hua, a former security guard in a living community who was also charged with theft, says the longer he worked as a security guard in the community where he saw people driving luxury cars and living in expensive apartments the more he felt it was unfair. "Why cannot I belong to the upper class like those city dwellers? Aren't we born equal?" he asked after his arrest.

Wang Kai, a security guard, was sentenced to two years in prison this August after putting out a fire on a bus. This might sound harsh, except it was him who started the fire. "My wages were really low, just a few hundred yuan per month," he said. "One of my company's policies was that security guards who were brave and put out a fire would be given some cash reward. I thought it would be a quick and easy way for me to get some money."

Li Jiwen, a security guard in a bath center in Chaoyang District, was the head of a group of



Photo by Photocome

Is it Safe?

"Why cannot I belong to the upper class like those city dwellers? Aren't we born equal?"

— Kou Hua

"Today they are security guards and tomorrow they are unemployed wanderers but the day after tomorrow they may become a security guard somewhere else."

— Zhuang Xiaojing

thieves. The group committed six robberies within two months in 2000. He was once a top student in his hometown in Heilongjiang. "Life has changed since my father was diagnosed with cancer," he said. "He needs money for the medical treatment. And my family need money to buy food."

Li quit school and came to Beijing. He worked as a shop assistant selling pork, a temporary worker mixing cement for a construction company and a waiter in a bar.

He says he was impressed that there were so many rich people in Beijing squandering money. "Some guests coming to our center spent nearly one thousand yuan overnight," Li said. "Money, which is very important to me, means nothing to these people. I want to have money. I do not want to endure any hardship."

Violence

Last December, a cleaner in Tongzhou District was beaten to death by two security guards while on his way home. The story caused a sensation in Beijing and brought concern about security guards hurting ordinary people to a new level.

The two parking lot security guards, Chen Hua and Wu Jian, told police they had found their lives boring since coming to Beijing several years ago. "We

had nothing to do to kill time. So we bought ten bottles of beer and drank them up," Chen recalled. "We felt restless and had an irresistible desire to get someone beaten," Wu added.

When the victim, surnamed Kang, rode past them, the two rushed out and pulled him down. When he fought back, Wu and Chen hit Kang with two empty beer bottles and a one-meter long iron stick.

In July this year, five security guards from Tangbiyuan Living Community, Xiaotangshan, Changping District, were sentenced by the local court to detention of between four and five months. After a dispute with a resident over car parking, they bashed her car with wooden and iron sticks, resulting

in damage that cost nearly 20,000 yuan to repair. Cui Shengchao, one of the guards, later said he hadn't thought about breaking the law, but admitted "it is not good to take such revenge." In July this year, forty different stories about security guards beating people were reported in major Beijing newspapers. The reasons for these accidents were almost always the

same: disputes about entry cards being shown when residents returned, taxis driving into living communities and car parking.

Under the cosh

In October 2001, Dai Dahong, a migrant worker, was beaten to death by security guards of Wu Mei Market, Huixin Xijie after being caught stealing chewing gum. Eleven security guards involved were detained by local police.

A security guard in a supermarket near Renmin University told *Beijing Today* he thought the job responsibility was to catch thieves and prevent theft. "If we miss any suspicious person and some goods are lost, several hundred yuan can be deducted from our monthly wages. We can be fined several thousand yuan under some conditions," he said.

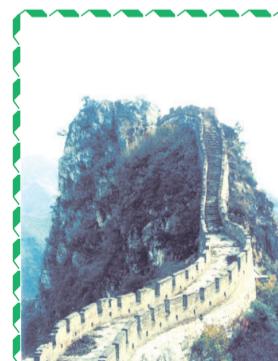
A policeman at Dazhongzi Police Station told *Beijing Today* it's not unusual to get reports about security guards injuring people, especially those working in entertainment venues. "In the past two months, there have been two such incidents at a karaoke bar near here. A taxi driver and a guest were beaten. It was because of car parking both times," he said.

Perks of the job

Eight of the theft cases handled by Haidian People's Procuratorate related to security guards taking advantage of their jobs to commit theft themselves or conspiring with others.

Jia Guozhong was arrested after stealing computers and digital cameras from an apartment in the living community where he worked. He said that if he had not picked up a key to the

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Shanghai

Tunnel Disaster Bosses Arrested



Workers strengthen the flood wall's foundations.

Photo by Photocom

By Wei Tingyu

Three executives have been arrested following the collapse of a subway tunnel in Shanghai in July. An investigation has found that the accident, which caused damages of about 150 million yuan, was the result of improper management and inadequate emergency response measures.

At 4:00am on July 1, water began to seep into the cross-river section of the subway tunnel being constructed between Pudong Nanlu and the Nanpu Bridge.

At 9:00am, an eight-story building at 847 Zhongshan Nanlu collapsed. A nearby building containing an audio and video market began to lean dangerously.

From then on, a battle with flood water pouring into the tunnel from Huangpu River began. The water threatened an underground network of electricity and gas pipes and it took six days of frantic emergency efforts before the flood could be sealed off with huge reinforced concrete walls. No one was injured, but the disaster could have been far worse.

Jiang Lan, spokesman for Shanghai Municipal government, said the three managers had been arrested on suspicion of grave dereliction of duty. They are Li Zhuhe, assistant project manager at the Shanghai branch of Beijing China Coal Mine Engineering Co (BCCMEC), and Yuan Qianghua, project manager of Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Co (STEC). The two companies were building the tunnel. Li Guanqiang, chief supervisor of Shanghai Metro Consulting Supervision Science and Technology Co. which was supervising the project, was also arrested.

Three other employees are on bail, awaiting further proceedings. The Shanghai authorities say the staff facing charges failed to respond to technical problems in the equipment used to build the tunnel. Flaws in the engineering plan and inappropriate on-site management and engineering supervision had also contributed to the accident.

What happened?

As soon as water was seen pouring into the tunnel on July 1, six divers were dispatched into the torrential waters to start building protection walls for the underwater pump. They fumbled in the darkness in their heavy diving suits for about 24 hours.

Meanwhile, 2000 policemen were mobilized to build sand bag barriers and a 60-meter-long dyke to keep the river at bay. All the work was by hand since construction machines couldn't get close to the area.

On July 2 there was further ground subsidence and a high tide on the Huangpu River which caused a 30-meter-long breach in the flood wall. The ground subsidence ruptured an underground gas pipe and a fire soon broke out so firefighters were summoned.

Meanwhile, the breach in the flood wall grew to 60 meters. Police worked desperately to fill the breach with sand bags but at 1:50pm on July 2, a section of the flood wall's foundations began to collapse and water poured through the crack.

Hundreds of soldiers unloaded more sandbags from lorries and passed

them hand by hand for hours. Six soldiers shouldered four water pumps and waded into the cave-in of the tunnel. At 8:15am the pumps began to function.

By July 5 two more buildings – a pumping station and an office block – that had been structurally damaged by ground subsidence had to be demolished. The ground under a nearby high-rise building – Linjiang Garden Building – was found to be subsiding and mud and cement were pumped in to save it.

On July 6 the damaged section of the tunnel was finally sealed off by reinforced concrete walls.

Causes of the accident

During the investigation, many experts said that the disaster could have been prevented if the correct procedures had been followed and warning signs had been noticed.

Professor Wong Jiajie from China University of Mining and Technology said part of the problem was incorrect use of freezing technology. This method

has been used for over 100 years and has been widely applied in Shanghai's underground infrastructure since 1992. The critical aspect of this technology is the temperature of the earth underground.

A change made by the companies constructing the tunnel was to reduce the number of vertical freezing pipes from 24 to 22 as well as reducing their length.

This raised the average underground temperature from 10 degrees below to eight degrees below zero, reducing the reinforcing effect of the frozen earth.

Any change relating to construction should be reported to the management of the construction company, the contractor and the supervision company.

But this change was simply reported to Li Gongzhou – Vice General Manager of BCCMEC and General Engineer of the tunnel. Problems with the small-sized freezer in the tunnel also went unreported.

Lessons for the Chinese metro dream

What impact the accident will have on the construction of the subway line, Metro 4 which was due to be put into operation in 2005, remains uncertain.

BCCMEC declined to be interviewed, with officials saying they were busy dealing with the fallout from the accident.

According to local media, the state-owned company has been involved in a number of infrastructure projects in recent years, including the Xiangyin Road Tunnel and Dalian Road Tunnel, both of which cross the Huangpu River and neither of which is yet complete.

Authorities have now downgraded the qualification status of the three firms involved in the tunnel collapse for further urban construction projects. Top managers in related companies have also been punished, according to Jiang.

State authorities have also suggested administrative penalties for other top executives in organizations like BCCMEC and China Coal Research Insti-

tute which were involved in the project.

But a report in *China Business* says punishment is not the solution to preventing a further disaster. The problem might be that construction is simply proceeding too fast in many areas of China. Subway construction projects are currently under way in nine major cities: Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Dalian, Shenzhen, Nanjing, Wuhan, Chongqing and Changchun. Seven more cities are also applying for subway construction. It has been suggested that the speed of subway construction around China is not practical.

"Construction of the prior Shanghai Metro Lines 1, 2, and 3 was already mired in debt. The income from subway management is not even enough to pay the salary for the subway workers," said an expert quoted in the *China Business* report. "The Shanghai construction groups had access to the right technology, experience and planning for the subway construction, but the disaster happened anyway," he said.

A Little Local Business

By Hou Mingxin

On August 28, *People's Daily* published a report criticizing illegal demolition and land transfer by Dingnan county government under the Ganzhou Municipal Government in Jiangxi Province.

So the authorities in Dingnan decided to withhold all copies of *People's Daily* – the country's most influential newspaper – to prevent any locals reading the report. Two days later, under pressure from public opinion, the August 28 issue of the paper was released by the county government, but pages 5 to 8 had been removed.

A reader from Dingnan wrote a letter to *People's Daily* informing them of the matter. The letter was published in the paper last Thursday.

"Do local Party committees or authorities have the right to withhold the Central Party Committee's newspaper? Why are they so scared about the report," the reader wrote.

A piece of land

What made Dingnan County Government take such action? The following is part of the report published in *People's Daily* on August 28.

In October 1998, after getting approval from Dingnan construction authority, local resident Chen Lianxiu, cooperating with Enrong village commission, constructed a two-story building.

In December 1998, Chen was given a legal land-use certificate by Dingnan Land Resource Bureau. One month later, Chen was issued with a house ownership certificate by Dingnan House Management Bureau. Chen and Enrong Village Commission and other tenants have been living and working there since the building was built.

On February 25, 2003, demolition of the building was ordered by Dingnan House Management Bureau. The

reason the bureau gave was "this old house" and another neighboring house should be removed for the sake of city development." The bureau also declared it had received approval from the county government.

Chen and Enrong Village Commission applied to the county government to discuss the issue but were turned away.

On May 3, the House Management Bureau ordered Chen and Enrong Village Commission to remove the building before May 10.

On May 8, Chen lodged a lawsuit at Ganzhou Intermediate People's Court requesting the court to block Dingnan House Management Bureau's order.

On May 14, the court ordered the bureau not to demolish the building. It also ordered a valuation of the building to take place on May 29.

But on May 28, at around 6:00pm, Dingnan City Management Team put up a poster on the wall of the building, requesting everyone to move out before 6:30am the following day.

On the morning of May 29, a team of about 100 people from the House Management Bureau and other local authorities arrived, headed by a vice head of Dingnan County. They proceeded to demolish the building.

It seemed the government's action could not be stopped by Chen and staff of Enrong Village Commission, not even Ganzhou Intermediate People's Court. Local residents were astonished by the county government's action.

As for the purpose of the demolition, the county government said it was "for broadening the road" and "for the sake of county planning". But after investigation, Fu Changbo, the writer of the *People's Daily* report, found this was not the truth.

Fu said in his report that the real

purpose of removing the building was to transfer the land to Shunfeng, a local company. He also pointed out that this kind of land transfer is illegal.

According to a regulation issued by the Ministry of Land Resources, all land made available for commercial purposes should be sold through public bidding or auction.

According to Fu's report, Dingnan Construction Bureau signed a contract with Shunfeng saying the company would pay the bureau 1.3 million yuan on condition that the bureau transferred most of the land (around 800 square meters) to the company.

In his report, Fu strongly criticized Dingnan County Government's illegal action, which aroused the county government's panic.

In the afternoon of August 29, when the August 28 copy of *People's Daily* arrived at the Post Office of Dingnan, staff of the Post Office received orders from two leaders of the county's information department saying the newspaper "should not be delivered", according to *Southern Weekend*.

Later, pages 5-8 of each issue were removed and the rest of the issue was delivered.

Different voice on the affair

Zeng Shaohua, director of Dingnan Construction Bureau, told *Southern Weekend* last Thursday that he didn't think the government had broken the law.

"Removing old houses is a tough problem during development," Zeng said. "The county government gives every bureau the task of attracting investment. My bureau is required to attract investment of six million yuan," Zeng added.

"It's hard to avoid damaging somebody's interests," Guo Xianzhen, director of Dingnan House Management Bureau, complained to *Southern Weekend*.

end. "In order to attract more investment, we have to further the interests of those with more capital."

"In fact, it was not my bureau's business, but the county government requested us to come. The reason, I think, was to show the government's force," a staff member from Dingnan Industrial and Commercial Bureau told *Southern Weekend*, when he recalled arriving for demolition of the house.

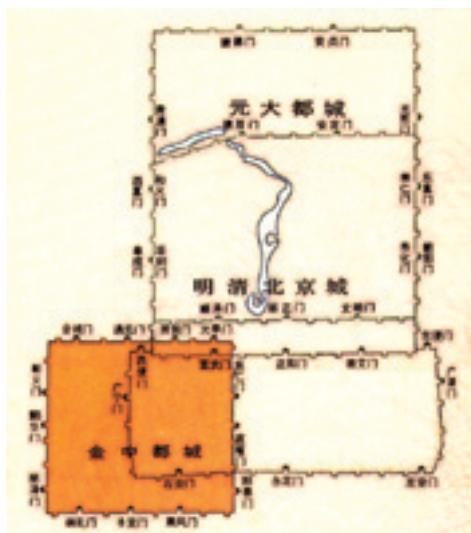
"This action can only diminish the image of the government, and undermine the law. But at that time, I dared not say anything. I just helped the residents pack up to prevent more loss," he recalled.

On September 15, Fu Changbo, was interviewed by *Southern Weekend*. Fu said Dingnan County Government's action had infringed on citizens' rights, because citizens have the right to know the truth.

According to a report published in a website sponsored by *Jiangxi Daily*, jxnews.com.cn, Meng Jianzhu, the secretary of Jiangxi Party Committee strongly criticized Dingnan County Government's action, saying it was wrong and foolish. The Ganzhou Party committee has requested Dingnan Party committee to conduct self-examination and admit their mistake.

After the affair was disclosed, *People's Daily* immediately showed their concern for the matter and announced that they would continue to probe and report on the matter. The paper has also called on Dingnan County Government to explain itself.

Meanwhile, Chen Lianxiu has still not received any compensation following the demolition of her building. Her lawsuit against the Housing Management Bureau was rejected by Ganzhou Intermediate Court last month, but she is preparing to take her case to Jiangxi High Court.



A series of events commemorating Beijing's 850th anniversary as capital of China were officially launched last Saturday. *Beijing Today* joins the celebration by dedicating four pages to the events.

The first Beijing International Biennale presents works by 154 Chinese artists as well as 423 works by artists from 45 countries and regions around the world. The one-month gala also presents four special exhibitions

from the Chinese painter Qi Baishi, Japanese painter Takayama Tatsuo, Korean fine arts and works from French art festival Autumn Salon. There will also be various other exhibitions in nine venues across the capital.

Beijing Today interviewed Jin Shangyi, chief curator of the Beijing Biennale and Chairman of the China Artists Association, Vincenzo Sanfo, curator for the international section of the biennale, and two award winning artists Wang Yingsheng from China and Nosrathollhe Moslemian from Iran, to give you an inside glimpse of what's going on beyond the galleries.

Biennale Begins!



Jin Shangyi



Vincenzo Sanfo



Wang Yingsheng



Nosrathollhe Moslemian



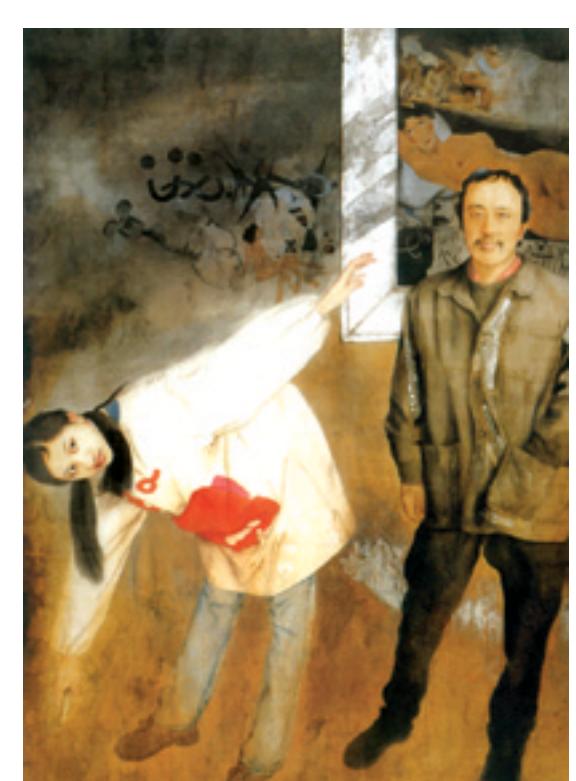
Untitled by Nosrathollhe Moslemian, acrylic on canvas.



Woman Coming by George Baselitz, oil on canvas.



Details of Brothers and Sisters by Zhang Chenchu, oil on canvas.



Detail of Strolling II by Wang Yingsheng, ink and watercolor on silk. Photos by Miao Yajie

Biennale Spurs Communication

By Iris Miao

Jin Shangyi believes originality remains a vital aspect of all art, which is why the theme of Originality: Contemporary and Locality was chosen for the first biennale. "Originality is a permanent theme for art," wherever it may come from, he says.

This might explain why only two categories of arts – sculpture and painting (traditional Chinese painting and oil painting) – have been included in the show. Some have suggested that these two categories may not represent the cutting edge in modern art. Jin disagrees. "Originality doesn't necessarily mean one has to adopt new media, or a new form of art. Originality is a must for all art forms. Painting and sculpture are just the two biggest and most mature art forms, which have shown through the ages their benefits to human society. It's nice to see originality and development in these two categories."

Jin, the former president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts and a well-established realist oil painter himself, points out that there are quite a lot of modernist installations in the sculpture category, such as the award winning work by Guo Zhenyu. It covers a whole side wall of the exhibition hall and uses ropes.

Some of the biennales in other countries focus on presenting new artists, but Jin hopes the first Beijing Biennale can spur artistic communication between China and the rest of the world. "On the one hand, we bring in many renowned artists worldwide, to learn from them; we also want to introduce China's contemporary art to the world."

Regarding the development of oil painting in the past 20 years, Jin feels the fast growth of this art in China in the last two decades has grown from studying the basic western techniques and styles. The three foreign members of the six-member review committee apparently share Jin's high opinion of the achievements Chinese artists have made. The review committee includes three Chinese members, chief curators Jin Shangyi, Liu Dawei and curator Wang Yong, and three of their foreign counterparts: international curator Vincenzo Sanfo from Italy, Swedish art historian Ylva Hallbeck and Jean Francois Larrieu from the Autumn Salon art festival in France. Jin says it was the first time the three foreign members had reviewed so many Chinese artists works at one time. They were so impressed, they asked Jin to make a statement at the award ceremony that it had been exceptionally hard to pick winners from among the many outstanding works.

New Perspective on the Traditional

By Iris Miao

Vincenzo Sanfo says the art festival aims to celebrate both diversity and shared characteristics. "The aim is to demonstrate the connections between contemporary art in different areas by presenting all kinds of works from various parts of the world. We also aim to give the audience a new perspective on traditional artistic techniques, namely painting and sculpture." One example is German artist George Baselitz, who likes to hang his paintings up side down.

Though the SARS epidemic and the many countries and artists involved made the preparation quite a difficult process, Sanfo is satisfied with the outcome. "I think the works we have brought to China give a faithful representation of the current state of western art."

Sanfo said he was pleased with how smoothly the biennale had gone so far, including the review committee's discussion over the artist awards. Most of the six members on the committee only met each other a couple of days previously, but they reached a consensus on the awards surprisingly easily. "I think it is because of the power of the art itself," says Sanfo. "The Chinese artist Wang Yingsheng is a good example. All six of us wrote his name down." Yet some Chinese artists, instead of rooting themselves in Chinese culture and tradition, prefer to imitate American or European art, says Sanfo. "My suggestion is to set your eyes on your native art, your own culture; then your creation will be more impressive and influential."

Sanfo, who has been involved with the Venice Biennale since 1988, compares Beijing's first biennale to "a new born baby," needing love and care to grow up strongly. "I believe that after four or six years, the Beijing Biennale will display its own characteristics, and will be able to rival the Venice Biennale in the future."

Born Painter

By Darlene Lee

One of the three Youth Award winners at the recently opened Beijing Biennale, Wang Yingsheng ranked first with all six jurors. "Frankly, I'm surprised," he said. My impression of this and other biennale shows around the world is that they are a chance to exchange different points of view and artistic styles. So it's hard to set a standard of what is best."

Born in Zhoukou, Henan in 1963, Wang seemed destined for a career in the arts from an early age. "My father was a painter of some renown so I never really considered whether another path might suit me better. During my years of education, I always studied art with my father. He's been my one and only teacher." Wang came to Beijing ten years ago to study at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He ended up staying on as a teacher. A younger brother carries on the family tradition of creativity as a professional photographer.

Wang has been impressed by Beijing's first biennale. "Chinese art is well represented, as well as there being a lot of works from well-established foreign artists. It's great that China can organize such a big international event to give us a chance to show the world what we are doing and share ideas with other artists."

Wang feels the biennale was needed to give some exposure to contemporary Chinese artists. "The Chinese understanding of form and space is very different from that of the west as it derives from very different understandings of the world. Western cultural influence has predominated through heavy promotion by those countries, so China has had less opportunity to influence the world culturally. The norm is all about how the west looks at all non-western cultures, so this show is a new way to communicate how we think, what we do and how we come at things," says Wang.

Wang incorporates traditional and contemporary elements in his work as well as blending both East and West. "If you look at my work closely, you can see how much I am between both worlds. Although the feeling of being created by a Chinese artist living in China is strong, the work has clear references to both western and Chinese art."

"We don't need to change or improve what we do, we just need to get it out there and show Chinese art to the rest of the world. The future of contemporary art in China lies in our ability to continue to absorb international influences so that we understand who we are and yet retain our unique culture," he concludes. With that in mind, Wang will soon be heading for Russia for a year of fine arts research in St. Petersburg.

Cultural Exchange

By Darlene Lee

Growing up in the suburbs of Teheran, Iran, Nosrathollhe Moslemian (one of the six winners of the Outstanding Work Award) loved art as a child. "I was always drawing and interested in artistic things when I was small," he says. Born in 1951, Moslemian earned a degree from Teheran University in Art. He met his wife Fatemeh Emdadian at university and their two daughters are now both pursuing careers in graphic design. A sculptor, Emdadian also has three works on display at the Beijing Biennale.

Moslemian's work reflects the daily struggle of human life as well as the triumphs and happy moments. "I try to express the balance involved in being alive today while drawing from the rich heritage of Iran's cultural history," adds Moslemian. Important influences include Kameletine Barazode and Bezo Arbosi from Iran, Picasso, Miro and Francis Bacon. About the Iranian artists, he says, "It's the way their sense of color opened up a new aesthetic universe which made the most impact on me."

Of his first trip to China, Moslemian couldn't be more enthusiastic. "Beijing is beautiful and I didn't expect it to be so modern. Compared to Teheran, Beijing is much more orderly. Teheran is more like a chaotic sprawl. All the enormous progress that China has made in recent decades is reflected in this city."

About the Beijing Biennale, Moslemian is equally positive. "I was surprised at the high caliber of works in the show. Many international artists are represented, all expressing the unique cultures and experiences of the artist. I've been very impressed." Moslemian adds that he has been interested in Chinese traditional painting for some time. "I have taken every opportunity to see traditional Chinese ink painting when I can in Teheran so it's not a new art form for me. Rather than feeling like a foreigner, so much is familiar culturally that I feel at home here."

These ties of cultural exchange have a long history. "China and Iran have had close cultural exchanges for some time, with Persian miniatures a good example of this. The wind and cloud motifs in Iranian art also reflect the strong influence of traditional Chinese aesthetic elements."

Reflecting on the comparative states of the art scene in the two capitals, Moslemian sees more similarities than differences. "Artists in both cities face the same question of how to reflect contemporary issues without losing a sense of roots, history and identity. This makes us much closer to each other than you might initially imagine," he says.



Known variously as Yanjing, Beiping, Zhongdu and Dadu, Beijing has been the capital of China for 850 years.

An exhibition at the Beijing Municipal Archives marks this anniversary, telling the history of Beijing from the time of Peking Man to the present. Another two exhibitions at the Millennium Monument Art Museum of China and the Liao and Jin Dynasties City Wall Museum highlight the culture of the city at the time it was first established as a capital.

Story Begins 850 Years Ago

The history of a capital

By Su Wei

Some 500,000 years ago, Peking man living in the Zhoukoudian area of what is now Beijing Municipality, marking a prologue to the city's long history. Inscriptions on ancient cooking vessels unearthed in Liulihhe, Fangshan District, show that around 4,000 and 3,000 years ago, during the Shang and Zhou dynasties, a city stood here.

During the Warring States Period (475 BC - 221 BC), the King of Yan annexed the territory of the King of Ji, making the city of Ji his new capital. This was in the vicinity of what is now Guang'anmen, Xuanwu District.

Early in the third century BC, the city of Ji was made the administrative center of Guangyang by Qinshihuang the first Emperor of the Qin Dynasty. It remained a key strategic and commercial center for 10 centuries, through to the end of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when it became the alternate capital of the Liao Dynasty (907-1125) who renamed the city Nanjing (Southern Capital) or Yanjing.

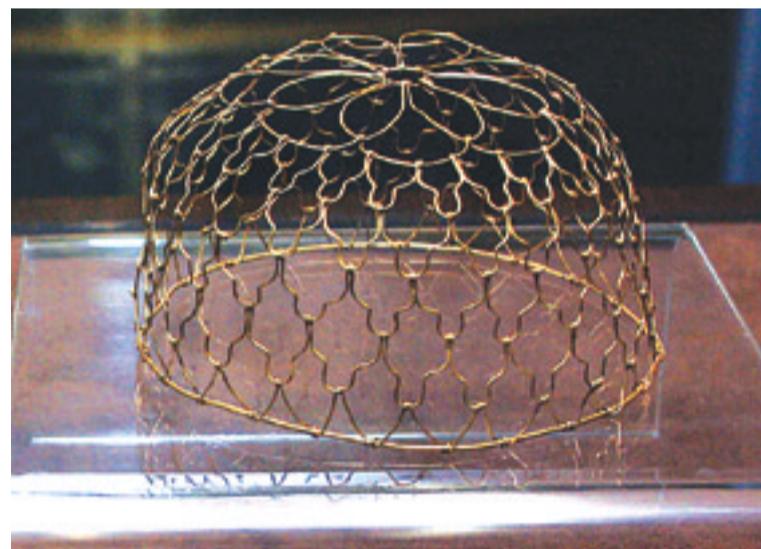
In the early 12th century, the Nüzhens (Jurchen) conquered the Liao and established the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234). In 1153, Emperor Wanyan Liang, moved the Jin capital from Huining (now Acheng, Heilongjiang Province) to Yanjing and renamed it Zhongdu (Central Capital) as a challenge to the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), which had its capital at Lin'an (now Hangzhou).

The rebuilding of the new city began in 1151 with expansion to the east, west and south. Palaces were constructed on a scale similar to the Northern Song (960-1127) capital at Bianliang (Kaifeng), and many of the actual building materials were transported from Bianliang.

In 1215, the Mongolian armies occupied Zhongdu, renamed it Yanjing, and gave



Relics recovered from the Jin tombs at Fangshan and Shijingshan - stone tigers (above), phoenix coronet (below) and seven-star iron sword (below right).



the city provincial status. It was not until 1271 that Kublai Khan formally adopted the new dynasty's name, Yuan, and made Yanjing the capital. Kublai Khan rebuilt the city and gave it the name of Dadu, meaning Great Capital. When the Mongolians finally eliminated the Southern Song and unified

the empire, Dadu - formerly Yanjing, later to become Beijing - became the political center of the country for the first time in history.

On the second day of the eighth lunar month, 1368, the Ming troops seized Dadu and renamed it Beiping (Northern Peace). Zhu Yuanzhang, the

founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), however, made Nanjing, in Jiangsu Province, his first capital. In 1406, Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty ordered walls 12 meters high and 10 meters thick at the base to be constructed around the city of Beiping. When the work was completed in 1421, Yongle transferred the Ming capital from Nanjing to Beiping, which was named, for the first time, Beijing (Northern Capital).

When the Manchus founded the Qing Dynasty in 1644, the city retained its status as the imperial capital

National level relics

The Jin Dynasty lasted only some one hundred years, and very few cultural relics from the period have been unearthed. The 52 pieces on show at the exhibition at the China Millennium Monument Art Museum include 16 ranked as national first class cultural relics, from museums including the Capital Museum and the

Jin Dynasty Shangjing History Museum in Heilongjiang Province.

Among them are a seven-star iron sword and a phoenix coronet unearthed from the Jin Imperial Mausoleum earlier this year in Fangshan District.

The gold and silver ornamented sword is 93 centimeters long and weighs 1.5 kilograms. The phoenix coronet, made of gold thread, is 17 centimeters in diameter, five centimeters high and weighs almost two kilograms.

Four well preserved murals unearthed from a Jin tomb last year in Shijingshan district illustrate scenes such as the preparation of a banquet and a chambermaid helping her master to go to bed.

Other relics on display include an iron lion, a crouching dragon, stone tigers, pendants, porcelain, bronze seals, silver pots and a bowl from the famous Dingzhou Kiln.

Jin's Zhongdu comes to public

The exhibition at the Liao and Jin Dynasties City Wall Museum focuses on Jin Dynasty Zhongdu relics and the discovery of Shuiguan relics.

Cultural relics unearthed in Zhongdu include brown glazes, plates, glazed roof corner ornaments (chiwen), Buddhist statues and porcelain pots from

the Cizhou Kiln.

A bronze *bixie*, an object for warding off evil influences, unearthed in 1990 from Da'an Palace of the Imperial City of Zhongdu, has the appearance of both a lion and a tiger. It has two short wings on each side, a single horn on the top of its head, four powerful feet and a long, tightly curled tail. It once stood atop a tent, on a platform in front of the palace to exorcise evil spirits and ensure safety.

Ancient Beijing Exhibition

Where: Beijing Municipal Archives, Pufangyu Lu, Fengtai District

When: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm till October 20

Admission: Free

Exhibition of Jin Zhongdu Relics

Where: Art Museum of China Millennium Monument

When: 8 am - 6:30 pm till October 20

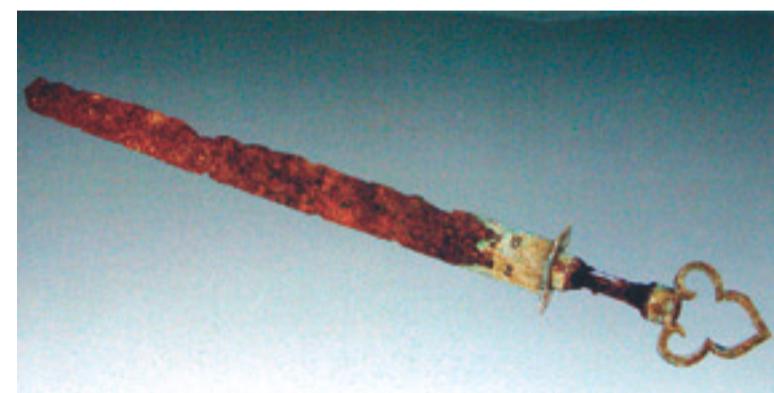
Admission: 30 yuan for adults, 20 and 15 yuan concession

History of Jin Zhongdu

Where: Liao and Jin Dynasties City Wall Museum, Yulin Xiaogu, Xuanwu District

When: 9 am - 4 pm, closed Mondays

Admission: 10 yuan, 5 yuan concession



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This city's centuries of status as China's political center were the talk of the town last weekend with the opening of the two-day International Academic Conference in Commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Beijing as a Capital of China at the Beijing Conference Center on Saturday.

Over 100 scholars and experts, from China, the UK, France, the US, Switzerland, Germany, Japan and other nations collected to participate in the conference. The main focus of the event was the research of relics and heritage from Zhongdu, Beijing's name when it first became a capital under the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234 AD).

When Emperor Wanyan Liang moved the Jin capital to Zhongdu in 1153, Beijing began its long history as this country's political heart and one of the world's most prominent cities.

Development and Demolition

By Chen Ying

Nearly 70 academic speeches were given at the conference, most dealing with architecture, Buddhism, commerce, folklore and economic, military and cultural development in Zhongdu.

Meanwhile, the involvement of officials from the Beijing Bureau of Cultural Relics, Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning (the Capital Layout and Construction Commission Office) and other administrations opened prime opportunities for the discussion of how to protect the city's cultural heritage and relics as the capital continues to develop.

"What kind of historical and cultural legacy, indeed what kind of metropolis, will we leave for future generations?" asked Li Zhun, an official from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning in his address to conference participants.

Li said that some reasonable measures, such as controlling building height and urban planning according to the conditions of different areas, have been taken by the government, but stressed these efforts are far from sufficient. "There is also a serious problem in that many of these planning measures are not strictly enforced or put into practice. We should be resolute in making up for mistakes and resisting the allure of personal gain from real estate companies during the urban planning process," he added.

According to Li, CCTV's planned new headquarters, the blueprints for which were publicly released at the end of July, is among a short list of new structures that could throw off the overall design of the capital. The proposed building would be located in the heart of the Central Business District in eastern Beijing. Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas designed the 230-meter tall building to appear as a huge arch joined by two V-shaped steel and glass arms (see the front page of our August 1 issue).

Koolhaas said that he had been invited to build similar structures in Paris and Rome, but was against the idea because he thought such modern structures would not match those historical cities. At the same time, he accepted the invitation from the Beijing government," Li said. "But Beijing also has rich history, culture and tradition, and Koolhaas' plan does not seem to match

the general feel of this city. His idea doesn't fit into the overall environment of the capital."

A lower-profile topic of discussion at the conference was how to deal with Beijing's old *siheyuan*, or traditional courtyard houses. These disappearing structures have long symbolized the layout of the capital, but their generally poor condition and single-story style present difficult obstacles to local city planners.

Many *siheyuan* have been reduced to rubble in the government's drive to remove and reconstruct dangerous and outdated housing over the past several years, stated Liu Xiaoshi, an official from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning. "The municipal government issued a promise to protect traditional *siheyuan* as much as possible early this year. That decision is down on the books, but the demolition of Beijing's *siheyuan* has continued because views on the issue differ and different parties can benefit," he added.

In his speech on Monday, Mei Ninghua, director of the Beijing Bureau of Cultural Relics, said it was high time for the passage of regulations and laws for the protection of the city's remaining old courtyards, still at risk of destruction with the continued expansion and building of Beijing.

He explained that the cultural relics administration itself has been powerless to stop the *siheyuan* demolition spree due to the lack of relevant legislation and because many courtyards are located in areas slated for reconstruction by Beijing's urban planners. "Siheyuan have never been considered cultural relics until now because there used to be so many of them around the city," Mei continued.

Since the government issued its protection promise, 539 *siheyuan* have been listed as protected sites, sparing them the wrecking ball (see related story on page 5).

Mei also emphasized that in the protecting of Beijing's cultural legacy, it is of absolute importance to strengthen cooperation between governmental departments. "New construction projects near *siheyuan* can only be carried out with the permission of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning," he said.

"It's time to make people aware of the

Beijing has undergone massive expansion over its history as China's capital.

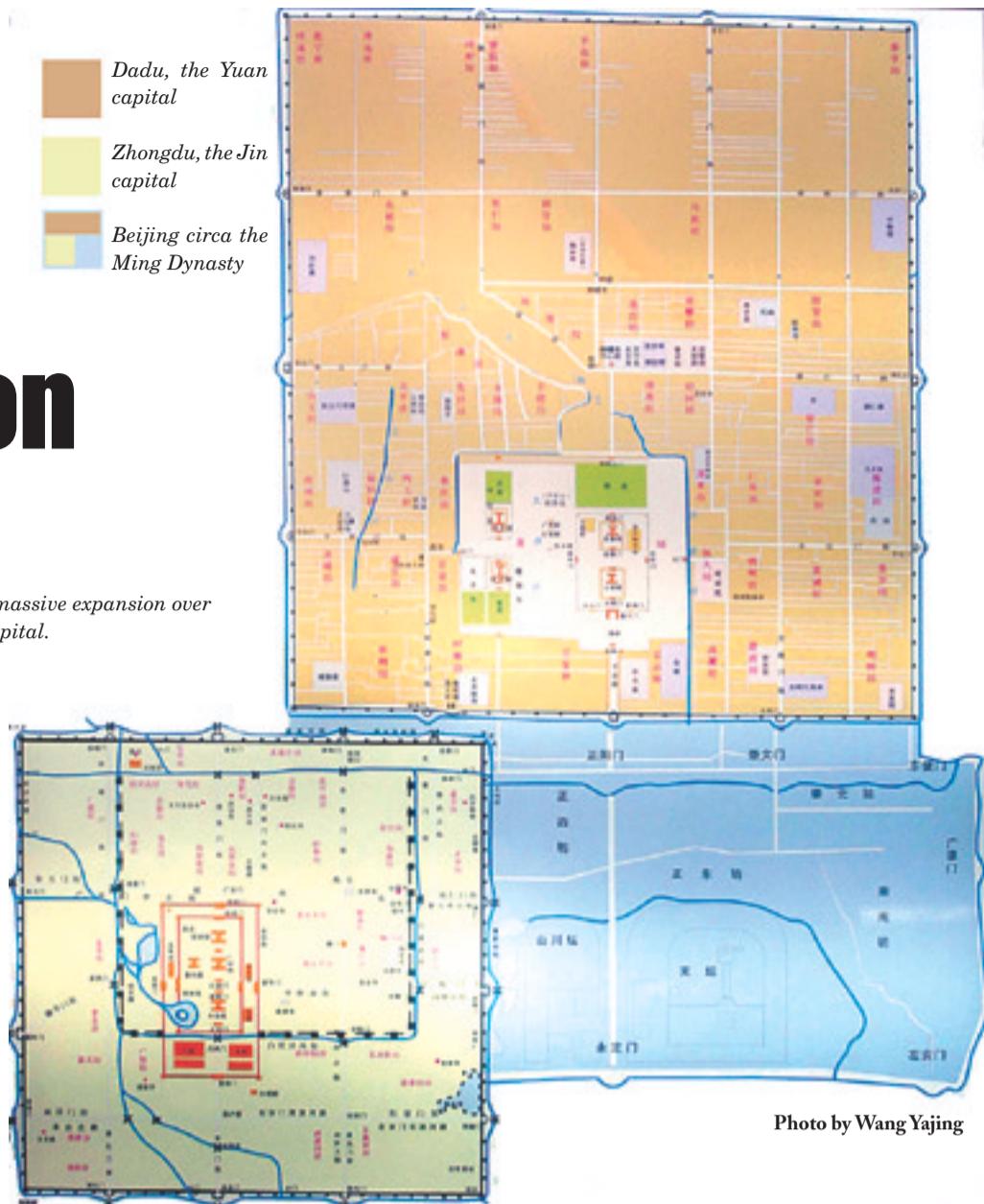


Photo by Wang Yajing

Better Late than Never

American pleads to city for protection of ancient heritage sites

By Chen Ying

An American expert and old Beijing hand is calling on the local government and residents to protect the capital's sometimes overlooked legacy as one of China's great cities.

At the International Academic Conference in Commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Beijing as a Capital of China held at the Beijing Conference Center on Monday, Virginia Anami pled for the preservation of seldom-visited historical sites and relics from the Liao (907-1125) and Jin (1115-1234) dynasties on the outskirts of the capital.

"I think this conference is really important because it lets people know about the history of Beijing before the Yuan and Ming Dynasties. A lot of people think Beijing began with Dadu (the city's name when it was the capital of the Yuan Dynasty), she said, adding that few people know Beijing's capital status stretches all the way back to the Jin Dynasty.

Anami, an expert on the history of Buddhism in China and wife of the Japanese ambassador to this country, has lived in Beijing for several years and has long worked for the preservation of China's cultural heritage.

"It's time to make people aware of the



Virginia Anami

Photo by Chen Ying

are two dangers," she added, "they might take or damage something and not take care of the cleanliness of the sites, or they might build villas there."

She showed *Beijing Today* a list of more than 300 ancient temple and relic sites in the city's outlying districts and counties that she hopes will be put under protection. "Even if there is just one tree left at an ancient place, it still represents a sacred site worthy of historical protection," Anami argued.

Acknowledging that historical protection can be a costly process, she said, "Sometimes just very simple protection, such as a fence, is all that is required. True, it's a money issue, but education is far more important for cultural protection."

Anami recounted that at Monday's conference, Beijing Bureau of Cultural Relics Director Mei Ninghua stated that if protection efforts had started 10 years ago, a lot more could have been saved.

"I would say 'Well, we can start from now!' In the countryside of Beijing today, there are still many relics and beautiful valleys all but forgotten," she said, also mentioning there are many well-preserved ancient villages around the municipality. "It isn't too late. Starting now, we can make a new plan."

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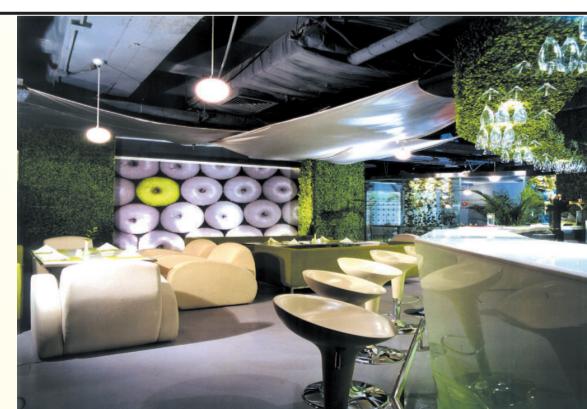
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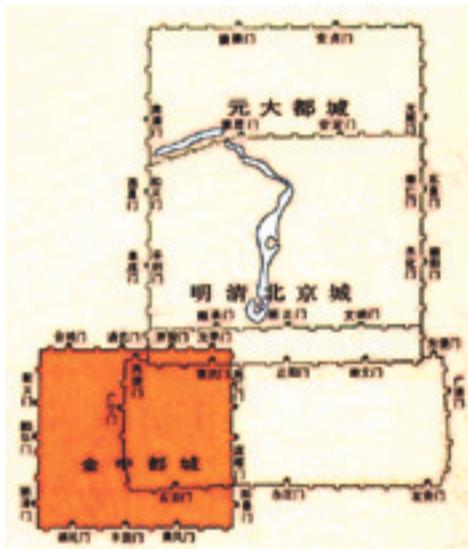
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To mark Beijing's 850th anniversary as a capital city of China, the Beijing Cultural Relics Bureau and Beijing Local Chronicles Office have collaborated to publish a book of research theses and two collections of albums, *Beijing Liao and Jin Historical Relics and Treasures from Jin Zhongdu*, illustrating the history of the capital. Of these cultural relics chronicled in the books, those related to Buddhism were mainly unearthed near the mountains around Fangshan, Mentougou and Changping districts, while most of the architectural remains were found in Xuanwu and Fengtai districts.

The pictures below are taken from the two albums.

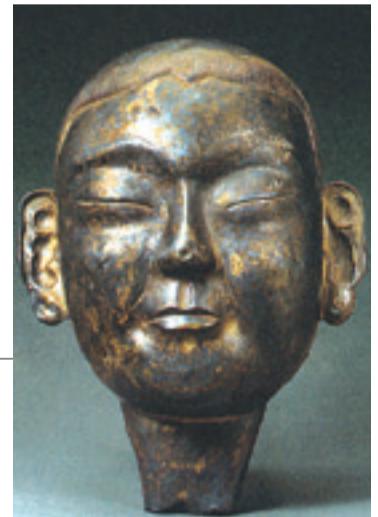
Relics of the Ancient Capital



Epitaph of Lü Zheng
Unearthed on the southern bank of the Liangshui River at Shiliuzhuang, Fengtai District, the epitaph is now part of the collection of the Museum of the Liao and Jin Dynasties. It was erected in 1167, on the 21st day of the 6th lunar month, during the reign of Emperor Dading of the Liao Dynasty.



Gilded silver mask
Unearthed from the Jin Tombs, the mask is now part of the collection of the Capital Museum. It has chubby cheeks, bold eyebrows, two slightly closed eyes, a slender and steeply ridged nose, large thick ears, a rounded heavy chin and slightly closed lips. There are two small round holes, one in the earlobe and another in the upper part of the ear, used for hanging ornaments. The image of the mask is robust, evidently characteristic of a minority nationality in northern China in ancient times. To wear a mask on the face of the deceased was a special burial custom for the nobles of the Liao period.



Huoxian, Tongzhou
Huoxian, today a large village in Tongzhou District, was a favorite hunting and picnic spot of Emperor Taiping (circa 1022-1030) of the Liao Dynasty. There are numerous remains of historic sites here, including an 800-meter city moat dug in 1556, during the Ming Dynasty, which is now a fish farm. There are also the remains of the Ganquan Well, dug at the order of Empress Dowager Xiao of the Liao Dynasty, Zhubi Well at Youguo Temple, dug at the beginning of Yuan Dynasty, and Sanchao Well at Longwang Temple dug during the Ming Dynasty.

Tianning Temple Pagoda

The Pagoda of Tianning Temple, just west of Guang'anmen on the West Second Ring Road, was built in 1119, during the reign of Emperor Tianqing of the Liao Dynasty. It is the only structure in Beijing built during the Liao Dynasty still standing.

The octagonal pagoda stands on a square platform, almost 58 meters high. It is a solid brick structure, with no inner staircase. Although it has been renovated many times over the centuries, the structure and shape, as well as most of the decoration, retains its original appearance. It is now a state level protected cultural relic.

By Yi Yi



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By Hou Mingxin

A new chapter in women's football opened last Saturday, when 16 soccer powers from the Americas, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania gathered in Philadelphia in the US for the kick-off of the fourth FIFA Women's World Cup tournament, the first women's World Cup of the new century.

Veterans lead favored US team

The United States showed they are in no mood to relinquish their status as women's world champions as they overcame Sweden 3-1 in their first match of the World Cup in Washington on Sunday.

The tournament, which was originally scheduled to be hosted by China, was moved to the US because of the outbreak of SARS this spring. It is the second time for the US to stage the event and the host team is expected to bag their third world title.

The world's top-ranked team benefits from the return of several veteran players, such as midfielders Julie Foudy and Kristine Lilly, forward Mia Hamm and defender Joy Fawcett, who won titles in 1991 and 1999 and finished third in 1995.

Led by Hamm, the world's all-time leading scorer, these wily vets have lost none of their passion for the game and are confident they will add another cup to their trophy cases.

When asked what keeps them going, Lilly replied, "Love of the game," as quoted in a Xinhua report on Monday. "Love of being out there and the whole concept of team sports and you helping them, and them helping you. It's just a lot of fun. If it stops being fun, that's the time to give it up."

Despite their advantages of experience and home field, the American team will face strong challenges from such squads as African champions Nigeria and Asian champions Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Chinese women still on target

Despite not being able to play on home turf, the Chinese women, runners-up in the 1999 World Cup, started the 2003 tournament with a 1-0 win over Ghana on Sunday night. Sun Wen, the most valuable player of the last women's Cup, scored the winning goal on a header in the 29th minute.

World soccer governing body FIFA has announced China will receive \$1 million dollars in compensation for losing the right to host the event, but home-field advantage would have been nearly priceless for the Chinese team - a rare chance to win their first World Cup in their own country.

When it was first announced that the 2003 Women's World Cup would be played in China, many soccer fans in this country hoped for a scenario in which the host team could avenge its 1999 loss to the US in front of a home crowd.

The relocation not only dashes those hopes, but gives momentum back the Americans, who have remained unbeaten at home in 24 games.

China is led by Sun Wen, one of the world's top scorers and a domestic star. She shared FIFA's player of the year award in 2000 and was a key player in the run to the 1999 finals.

It is the Sun's fourth World Cup, and she is set on winning the title as a perfect end to her professional soccer career.

"Sure, it's hard to compare the Chinese women's team overall with that of 1999. But I don't think it is unrealistic for us to take aim at the championship. We're still a strong, world-class team," Sun told *All Sports* magazine.

DPRK, newcomer and dark horse

The North Korean team poses a viable threat to the US' title dreams, and the squad has set its sights on staging a dramatic upset in this year's tournament.

Their status as surprise challengers has been acknowledged by Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Peter Velappan.

"They are the new emerging power in Asia," Velappan told the Associated Press last Saturday. The DPRK beat China in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, and at the last Asian Women's championships in Bangkok.

"This team has been preparing since the '99 World Cup. They are very athletic, they can run for 90 minutes," he added. "Maybe they're a little short of international experience at that level, but we expect them to do very well in the championships."

Tension around the first-round showdown between the DPRK and the US will be fueled by the continuing clash between the countries over North Korea's nuclear aspirations.

Last Saturday, the DPRK team started their campaign by beating Nigeria 3-0.

Other powerful teams had good starts, with European heavyweights Norway and Germany winning their first matches.

Norway, the 1995 World Cup champion, jumped into first place in Group B by toppling France, while European champion Germany came back from a goal down to beat Canada 4-1 in Group C.

Group A: United States, Sweden, Nigeria,

DPR Korea

Group B: Norway, France, Brazil,

Korea Republic

Group C: Germany, Canada, Japan, Argentina

Group D: China, Ghana, Australia, Russia

Venue, Expectations Shift in Women's World Cup



US forward Abby Wambach (white) breaks through Sweden's defence in Sunday's match, in which America scored a 3-1 victory.

Xinhua Photos

Walking Great Wall Set to Stand Again

By Zhang Bo

After failing to win their sixth successive Asian Games title in Busan, South Korea last year, the Chinese men's basketball team hopes to solidify another streak and reestablish their Asian supremacy at the 22nd Asian Basketball Championship for Men. The event began Tuesday and will run until next Thursday in the city of Harbin in China's northeastern Heilongjiang Province.

According to a draw conducted in late August, the Chinese team is grouped with Syria, Chinese Taipei and Iran. China's major opponent, South Korea, is slotted in Group B with India, Kuwait and Malaysia.

China and South Korea are heavily favored in their groups and expected to meet for an exciting title match.

GROUP A	LEBANON	UZBEKISTAN	HONG KONG	KAZAKHSTAN
GROUP B	KOREA	INDIA	KUWAIT	MALAYSIA
GROUP C	SYRIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	IRAN	CHINA
GROUP D	QATAR	JAPAN	PHILIPPINES	JORDAN

Stars at the helm

The drive to revive seems to have struck a nerve with Chinese basketball buffs, who are showing unusual levels of interest in this tournament.

This championship is a crucial key to qualifying for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games -- only the title winner will get a ticket. After placing an all-time high eighth at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, China's national basketball team has struggled through over a decade of mediocrity, leaving many people now concerned about their chances for

winning this tournament on home turf, let alone making it to the Olympics.

Yet there is still great hope, mostly in the form of Yao Ming. China's 2.26-meter starting center was the top pick in the 2002 NBA draft and has emerged as an international superstar with the Houston Rockets. He will be making his first appearance with the national team since moving to the NBA.

Yao will get significant back-up from another Chinese NBA player, center Mengke Bateer. A member of the San Antonio Spurs, he is the Asian first player to be part of a NBA championship team. Chinese fans are pinning their hopes on these two giants to bring home the gold.

Seeking sweet revenge

Those same fans are eager to bury memories of the national team's embarrassing loss to South Korea at the Busan Games last October. The Chinese men squandered a 19-point lead in the fourth quarter and ended up losing 102-100 in overtime.

The team's roster has been reshuffled and with the return of its NBA players, the squad is set to avenge that painful loss.

Guard Li Nan was quoted in last Thursday's *Titan Sports* as saying, "If we meet South Korea again, I'm going to give 200 percent, and all my teammates are going to give all they have to play as well as we can."

While some sports analysts believe South Korea's only advantage in competing with China stands in 2.23-meter center Ha Seung-jin, members of the Korean squad have stated that the only way to stride over China's "Walking Great Wall" is to depend on three-pointers and active defense.

With the team's a strategy largely dependant on perimeter shooting, Ha will be left with the responsibility of guarding China's Yao Ming and Bateer, and will need to provide crucial points in the paint. The Korean team has enrolled four guards and forwards, all three-point specialists, from the Korean Basketball League (KBL) to back

up its game plan, according to *Titan Sports*.

In sharp contrast to Korea's lineup, China's experienced head coach Jiang Xingquan has molded his squad in the likeness of the San Antonio Spurs, with powerful centers supported by swift guards. Jiang has also been drilling his players in three-two defense, aiming to shut down Korea's three-point shooters.

Yao Ming's mysterious Iranian rival

The Iranian team was the first foreign squad to arrive in Harbin and cannot be ruled out in the running for the title.

"I am eager to play China, our only real opponent in the tournament," Nenad Trajkovic, Iran's Serbia-Montenegro-native head coach, told Xinhua Agency.

The main source of the Iranians' confidence is 17-year-old, 2.23 meter center Jaber Royzbahan. The baby-faced giant has only been playing basketball for two years, but is expected to give China's Yao Ming a run for his money.

"Just like Yao, Jaber has amazing natural talent for basketball. I plan to take him to Serbia-Montenegro, where he can receive better training and play with higher-level opponents. I predict he will be a first round draft pick in the NBA very soon," gushed Trajkovic.

Even with Jaber, Iran will have its hands full against the host team, as the Chinese squad is packed with nearly all of the country's best players. The full roster is Fan Bin, Liu Wei, Guo Shiqiang, Jiao Jian, Zhu Fangyu, Zhang Jinsong, Li Nan, Li Ke, Gong Songlin, Yan Ming and Bateer. Absent is Wang Zhizhi, another Chinese migrant to the NBA, who also did not play with the national team at Busan.

China began participating in the Asian Basketball Championship for Men in the eighth running of the tournament, and since then has taken home 12 titles and two third-place finishes.

"We are well prepared, and as long as our team brings their normal game, I am certain that we will be the winner," said Jiang Xingquan at a news conference last week.



Chinese center Mengke Bateer (white jersey) puts in a lay-up during China's 103-51 drubbing of Syria on Tuesday.

Nectar of the Gods

“Sometimes you get it from chicken. Sometimes you get it from coffee.”
— late rock great Frank Zappa on sources of inspiration.

By Joel Kirkhart

In the past three years or so, Beijing has witnessed a quiet beverage revolution. Gone are the days when coffee meant insipid instant, now that real, fresh-brewed coffee has become available all over town. And the quality and varieties of “joe” offered at capital cafes seem only to be improving.

Some of the credit for bringing real coffee to Beijing must grudgingly go to global coffee megolith Starbucks, which set up its 38th branch in the capital this summer. Through clever branding and widespread advertising, Starbucks has made coffee cool among Chinese — even among people who really don’t like it.

That said, however, equal or better coffee can be found at many lower-profile, more individualistic establishments around town. Most of Beijing’s mushrooming Italian restaurants worth their salt now have full-on professional espresso machines that crank out silky, rich cups of the beloved, concentrated brew. Safe bets for mind-blowing espresso are the cups served at local Italian institution Gisa, near Chaoyang Park west gate, as well as at Dongdan newcomer Rita’s “Coffee Corner.”

The majority of bars and restaurants on Sanlitun Bar Street offer espresso and regular coffee, generally of the mediocre variety. One place truly worthy of recommendation is Dareen Coffee, which offers unusually fresh brew, as the café roasts its own beans at a facility in Shunyi District (beans are available for purchase at quite reasonable prices).

Dareen has opened another branch in the Shishahai area, though the small joint does not sell beans and service tends to be pretty clueless. Unfortunately, that is true of many cafes in that area, at least in terms of coffee. Drinking coffee around the lakes is often a question of which is more important, good brew or good view? Sip carefully.

True to form, Beijing’s university area is home to a bevy of cafés, some of which make very credible coffee. Try Sculpting in Time (No. 12 Chengfu Lu in Wudaokou) and Space for Imagination (near the east gate of Tsinghua University), both of which get bonus points for tasteful décor and interesting cultural events.

This is by no means a complete list and new cafes are popping up all the time. These are heady days indeed for local coffee heads and aspiring caffeine addicts.

Crema the crop

There’s coffee and then there’s espresso. To many java lovers, this Italian concoction is the pinnacle of coffee, distilled bliss, a short shot of flavor and caffeine great in the morning, after dinner or anywhere in between. Creating good espresso is a mixture of science and art that requires patience, attention to detail and

timing to produce optimum results. Below is an introduction to the basics of this “king of coffees,” as well as a brief primer on espresso makers and how to brew the beguiling beverage.

The word espresso means two things, a unique brewing method in which piping hot water is forced at high pressure through packed coffee grounds, and a roast of coffee, darker than some but not extremely dark.

A good espresso should be strong, yet not overly bitter, rich and refreshing with a healthy froth on top, a layer known as the *crema*.

Of course, espresso can only be as good as the beans used to make it. Fortunately, fine pre-ground espresso, and sometimes whole beans, from prominent Italian roasters such as Lavazza and Illy are available around town (see “And The Winner Is” on page 14 in last week’s issue). Getting optimum results, however, requires use of the most freshly roasted beans, and that can be a tricky proposition. Coffee purists can try the locally roasted beans from Dareen, mentioned above, or pay a bit more for the premium beans cooked up by Beijing-based Arabica Roasters and sold at select locations around town. Be sure to check the production dates on bags before making a purchase, as some stores sell beans roasted over one year ago.

Makers

The easiest and cheapest way to make reasonably authentic espresso at home is to use a special stovetop coffee maker known as a moka pot. They come in stainless steel and aluminum, the latter preferable because it is more sturdy and safer.

These pots are heated directly over the flame from a gas or electric burner and maintain the high pressure needed to create a good cup of espresso with the requisite crema. They are available at some major shopping centers and Starbucks outlets around town, starting at around 150 yuan.

To use a moka pot, fill the bottom with water to the level of the valve or just beneath. Then fill the filter basket with coffee, taking care not to pack the coffee, as it will do that itself as it gets wet. Drop the filter basket into the bottom, assemble the top and place the coffee maker over medium heat, brewing for five minutes. Serve and drink immediately.

Better results come from dropping a significant chunk of change and buying a full-bore espresso maker. They come in a wide range of sizes, some for individual use, others better suited for restaurants or offices, so first consider demand when making a purchase.

There are two kinds of espresso makers, pump-driven and steam-pressure driven. The pump, or piston, models are preferable because they are better at maintaining

the high pressure needed to produce truly fine espresso. The Lufthansa Center has perhaps the largest selection of espresso machines in the city, ranging from an industrial-strength Saeco Royal machine (15,800 yuan) to home models from Italian manufacturer DeLonghi priced from 680 yuan to 3,180 yuan, depending on abilities and extras. There are cheaper models available, such as ones under the Eupa brand, but why skimp when buying a luxury item like an espresso maker?

Brewing

Purchasing a machine is just the start of the labor of love that is making good espresso. Actual brewing is a somewhat elaborate process that takes plenty of practice to master. Don’t worry if the first several, or many, cups from a new maker come out not-quite-right — perseverance will pay off and practice makes for consistent brewing later on.

To start with, the coffee must be ground finely and tamped down in the filter basket uniformly. The exact fineness of grind and degree of compression needed differs from machine to machine and according to other conditions, so experimentation is required.

In making espresso, timing is everything, because the best, most flavorful coffee comes out at the very beginning of brewing. Learn to cut off the drip as soon as the desired amount of espresso has burbled forth. For pump machines, it should take 15 to 20 seconds to make each shot or serving. While professionals can judge when to cut off coffee flow by sight, amateurs can benefit from use of a standard shot glass. For a classic-size, rich serving almost sure not to be bitter, brew the shot, including crema, up to the line on a shot glass and no more.

Crema should be a secondary concern, as it has little impact on actual espresso flavor. Perfecting crema is a matter of perfecting regular usage, getting the right grind of fresh coffee in the right amount evenly distributed in the filter, brewed at proper pressure. Steam-pressure brewers are all but incapable of producing primo crema.

It is always a good idea to use pre-warmed small, pre-warmed cups for espresso. Warming cups first keeps the drink hot as it slowly drips out and helps build and hold the crema.

Frothing milk

Most popular espresso-based drinks, such as lattes and cappuccino, are made with frothed milk. The vast majority of espresso makers come with frothing mechanisms, small pipes that protrude from the front or sides of the machines. These little wands pump out steam that easily heats milk and can produce rich, foamy froth with some practice.

Frothed milk can also be made with a standard French-press coffee maker. Simply heat milk to near boiling, pour it into the press and agitate the milk with the plunger. Several strokes should produce nice, bubbly milk perfect for filling out an espresso shot.



Photos by Cui Hao / Joel Kirkhart



A key to making good espresso is packing, or tamping.



DeLonghi’s BAR140 pump maker is one serious home espresso machine.



Stove-top Moka makers can crank out credible espresso for relatively little expense.

Good Karma, Coffee at Kosmo

By Joel Kirkhart

As chains go, you can feel pretty good about yourself by buying coffee, other beverages or snacks from Kosmo. The local branch of this successful Hong Kong cafe chain is in its initial stages of opening at a prime location on the revamped West bank of Qianhai and set to win converts with its healthy drinks and food.

Everything on offer is organic, including the coffee, made from beans imported from around the world and roasted in the US. The espresso is outstanding, smooth and deep with a nice spicy hit and reasonably priced at 15 yuan for a single shot. The menu offers a range of common espresso-based drinks (20 yuan and up each) that use only low-fat milk, along with the unusual lavender latte, made with real lavender to add flavor and calm nerves. Another uncommon coffee option is the Well-Bean coffee, a healthy, refreshing, light and somewhat sweet drink brewed from a mixture of roasted coffee and soybeans that tastes better than that might sound.

Other beverage options include a range of fresh juice mixes pressed for maximum nutrition content with little or no added sweetener, such as the sharp Fighter, meant to boost immunity, and the self-explanatory Hangover Refresher. Kosmo also makes a selection of all-natural



smoothies, including ones packed with protein powder for customers looking to bulk up, priced at 25 to 30 yuan each. These drinks are ultra-healthy and altruistic, as 1 yuan from every beverage sale goes to UNICEF.

Food offerings are limited at present, but Kosmo is set to soon introduce Beijing to the international “wrap” craze, as well as a range of low-fat pastas and risotto, sandwiches, salads and healthy desserts.

The second floor of the comfortable three-storey café has a fireplace and glass-enclosed balcony to accommodate smokers and the top is a cozy rooftop terrace. Overall, Kosmo is a welcome addition to the now crowded Houhai area, a café that truly knows its coffee and knows a thing or two about tasty health food as well.

Where: 5 Qianhai Tianhefang, Dongcheng **When:** 10 am – 10 pm **Tel:** 6611 0214 **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person

Make Haste to Tasty Taste

By Sarah Bai

In a shady corner at the busy intersection of Gongti Beilu and Chunxiu Lu stands bakery and café Tasty Taste. This establishment should not be judged by its questionable name, for it offers excellent coffee and delicious baked treats and is a prime spot for grabbing breakfast or enjoying a relaxing break.

Decoration is tasteful, with huge windows great for people watching, comfortable chairs and couches and an outdoor area with umbrella-shaded tables. Customers are met at the door by a small artificial waterfall that is soothing and pretty, but likely to hasten nature’s call after a couple coffees.

Just behind the waterfall is the counter, home to Tasty Taste’s confectons and brewing equipment. Most coffee offerings are made from freshly-ground Italian



Illy espresso (15 yuan) and cappuccino (25 yuan)

Illy beans, available in regular and decaffeinated forms. The espresso (20 yuan) is rich, bracing and satisfying, while the latte (25 yuan) is truly superb, the flavor of the strong coffee coming through over frothy, steamed milk



Espresso masters can turn common lattes into works of art.

and what tastes like a bonus dab of real cream. The coffee menu includes an extensive range of drinks sure to please coffee lovers and the not-yet-fully-converted, all priced from 20 to 35 yuan each.

A great compliment to a coffee is a slice of one of their excellent baked goods, particularly their huge range of cheesecakes, including standards like cherry and New York and exotics like green tea and chocolate coffee. Tasty Taste is one of the few bakeries in town to get cheesecake right — their versions are sinfully rich, nicely cheesy, not too sweet, and priced around 15 yuan a piece. Also available are tarts, pies, muffins and more at similar prices.

Where: Worker’s Stadium North gate, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** 9 am – 11 pm **Tel:** 6551 1822 **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person

Stage

Magic Water Show

A "Magic Water Show" is being held in Chaoyang Park till October 4. Kaleidoscopic images made by laser are projected on a large water "screen" to make a mirage-like vision, accompanied by music and fireworks.

When: 8 pm - 9:30 pm **Admission:** 100-330 yuan **Tel:** 6506 5343

Aida

This production of Verdi's tragic tale features 3,000 performers and a 30-meter pyramid.

Where: Workers' Stadium **When:** 7:30 pm, September 27-28 **Admission:** 120-1,800 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888

Even Relatives Keep Careful Accounts (Qinqi Pengyou Haosuanzhang)

A cautionary tale about two brothers based on the old Chinese saying: "Even brothers keep careful accounts." Directed by TV entertainer Chen Peisi and featuring a star line-up from Chen's previous drama *Tuo'er*.

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** 7:30 pm, September 27-29 and October 4-6 **Admission:** 100-800 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888



Ballet: Swan Lake

The Pushkin National Ballet of Russia brings this classic piece to Beijing during their 2003 tour of China.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theatre, 135 Xizhimen Waidajie **When:** 7:30 pm, September 26-27 **Admission:** 80-680 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888

Bright Spring Melodies (Ming Chun Qu)

Performed by top cross-talkers Jiang Kun, Zhao Shizhong, Li Jianhua, Zheng Jian, Liu Hui, Liu Quanhe and more. The program includes *Ma Guizi* (Curse the Devil), *Ying Jiefang* (Celebrating Liberation) and more.

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** 7:30 pm, October 1-3 **Admission:** 80-680 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888

Marriage of Figaro

The Central Opera House presents highlights from the Marriage of Figaro in Chinese, adding Chinese jokes to the mix.

Where: Tianqiao Theatre **When:** 7:30 pm, October 3-5 **Tel:** 6406 8888



Cartoon Carnival: Autumn Fairy Tales

Activities

Great Wall Party

Back to the Great Wall for a line up of top Beijing bands and DJs including Brain Failure, Super Market, Mickey Zhang and Gao Hu. Also featuring international DJs, Swiss Cheese and Will.

Where: Depart from north gate of Worker's Stadium (Gongti Beimen) **When:** 12 am, 2 pm, 4 pm, September 27 **Admission:** 500 yuan, including return transport and free parking for drivers **Tel:** 8008101887

Sports

Big Black Mountain

This hike heads away from the Black Mountain towards the Great Wall, providing views of both, and finally passes through the wall to a walled village.

Where: Meet at Starbucks outside Lido Hotel on 8 am

When: September 28 **Admission:** 150 yuan for adults, 100 yuan for children under 12 **Tel:** 13701003694

Jams

Bamboo Music

DJ Mobin Master (aka Tribal Funk) will give you a taste of the driving percussion, tribal grooves and 'deep house' that have made the UK charts and been heard on turntables around the world.

Where: the Club, Beisanlitun Nanli **When:** 9:30 pm, September 26 **Admission:** 100 yuan **Tel:** 6417 7791



Dancing Queen

China's king of hip-hop, DJ Dai Bing will host this wild party.

Where: Yan Club, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu **When:** 9:30 pm, September 27 **Admission:** free

ber 27 **Admission:** 40 yuan **Tel:** 8457 3506

Mix and Blend

This remixing set starts with live percussion, and builds up a tower of jazzy dub, house and techno. DJs JB, Cru Da T-Dot and more. Entry limited to 300 people.

Where: Vibes, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Dashanzi **When:** 10 pm, September 27 **Admission:** 30 yuan, including one drink **Tel:** 6437 8082

Beautiful Pharmacy

Meihao Yaodian (Beautiful Pharmacy), one of the pillars of Beijing's music scene will be on the stage.

Where: Loup Chante, 38 Chengfu Lu, Shiweiying **When:** 9:30 pm, September 27 **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6276 7355

DJ SunJam and special guests, including DJ Digga, will keep things rolling.

Where: Treelounge, 100 meters south of Agricultural Exhibition Centre **When:** 10 pm September 27 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6501 9441

Exhibitions

Shine in October

A joint landscape exhibition by famous artists titled "What is the Best" will be held from October 11 to 18. The artists include Pan Yuliang, Qian Ding, Tang Yih, Yang Songlin, Cui Kaixi, Huang Zhong, Zhang Zishen and Ji Dachun.

Where: Soka Art Center, 107 Dongsi Beidajie **When:** October 11 - November 18, 10 am - 9 pm (closed Monday) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8401 2377

Empty Valley - Sound-filled Sky

Italian photographer Marialba Russo first gained acclaim for her images documenting social festivals of central and southern Italy. Within the last decade, she's shifted her focus to aspects of the subconscious.

Where: Jintai Art Museum, 1 Nongzhan Nanlu **When:** 9:30 am - 4 pm, September 26 - October 5 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6501 9441

Music

Butterfly Lovers

The Symphony Orchestra of the National Ballet of China presents selections from *Butterfly Lovers*, *Swan Lake*, *Carmen* and more.

Where: Ethnic Cultural Palace Theatre **When:** 7:30 pm, September 27 **Admission:** 80-480 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888

Oscars Movie Tunes

The Symphony Orchestra of the China Song and Dance Troupe performs music from *Pearl Harbor*, *Mulan*, *Gone With the Wind*, *Ghost* and more.

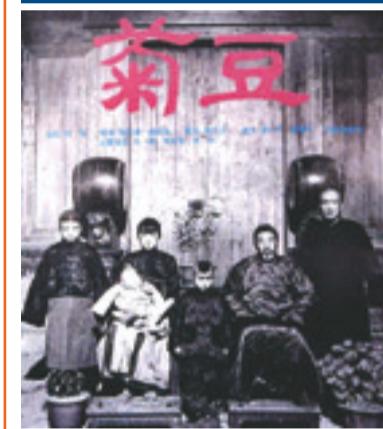
Where: Ethnic Cultural Palace Theatre **When:** 7:30 pm, September 28 **Admission:** 80-480 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888

Choral Concert

The Beijing Sound of Spring Chorus performs *Moscow Nights*, *In a Faraway Place* (*Zai na yaoyuan de difang*), *Lift Your Red Veil* (*Xian ni de gaitou lai*) and more.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall **When:** 7:30 pm, October 3 **Admission:** 10-100 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888

Movies



Ju Dou

One of Zhang Yimou's great masterpieces, *Ju Dou* tells the story of an abused wife who takes solace with her husband's adult son, Chinese with English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane outdoor movies, Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu **When:** 8:30 pm, tonight and tomorrow **Admission:** 50 yuan, includes one beer/non-alcoholic drink **Tel:** 13901134745

Language Exchange

Kevin, a 32-year-old translator, wants to make some foreign friends or be a private tutor (or guide) for foreign friends who want to learn Chinese. **Tel:** 8697 9782

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By Guo Yuandan

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Burial Site of Emperors

▲ Distinctive Manchu architectural design



Fried gezhe'r



◀ The fourth gate of the underground palace, damaged during looting by warlord Sun Dianying in 1928.



Sour and sweet gezhe'r

By Yi Yi

The town of Malanyu, 125 kilometers east of Beijing, was originally founded during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC). In the early Ming Dynasty, a section of the Great Wall was built here, and a town called "stone town" was constructed later. In 1661, Shunzhi, the first Qing emperor, chose to build his tomb, Xiaoling, at the foot of Changrui Mountain, west of Malanyu, and from that time, the town began to prosper.

The Internal Affairs Department of the Qing Court directly administered the cemetery area, and troops were stationed around Malanyu. Following the burial of Emperor Shunzhi in 1663, Jingling, the tomb of Emperor Kangxi; Yuling, the tomb of Emperor Qianlong; Dingling, the tomb of Emperor Xianfeng; and Huiling, the tomb of Emperor Tongzhi, as well as the tombs of four empresses, including Empress Dowager Cixi, were built here. The last, a concubine of Emperor Tongzhi, was buried in 1935.

Altogether 161 members of the imperial court were buried in the East Imperial Tombs of the Qing Dynasty (Qing Dongling). The small town became populated almost exclusively by people of the Manchu nationality, bringing with them Manchu customs, language and food.

Today however, there is little evidence of Malanyu's Manchu past, although one of the most renowned local specialties, gezhe'r, remains a popular dish here. The name "gezhe'r" is said to have been given by Empress Dowager Cixi. When the dish was first put on the table for her, Cixi asked for it to be "put aside," in Chinese "gezhe'r". When she later tasted it, Cixi loved

the dish very much, and thus its name was settled.

There used to be two residences, Dong Fu and Xi Fu (East Residence and West Residence), once lived in by the 3rd, 14th and 15th sons of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722). Of Xi Fu, no trace remains, while all that is left of Dong Fu a small yard with one room.

Sightseeing in the 2,500-square-

meters tomb area could easily take a whole day. Of the sights here, Yuling, Emperor Qianlong's tomb is the most magnificent.

The Buddhist engravings on the walls of underground palace are also of the finest craftsmanship. Unlike the treasure exhibition of the Ming Tombs, there is little to see in the exhibition hall of the Qing tombs. The treasure buried with the bodies of the emperors was looted by the warlord Sun Dianying in 1928.

Malanyu is three and a half hours drive from Beijing, through pretty scenery fruit gardens, cornfields and peanut plantations.

Getting there: Take the Beijing-Tongxian Expressway from Dabieyao (World Trade Center), change to the Beijing-Harbin Expressway, follow the signs to Malanyu.

Tip: mini-bus tours are available around the Dongling area. It costs 20 yuan to go from Erlangshen Temple to Yuling. After visiting the underground palace of Qianlong, the guide might recommend you burn some incense to get rid of the bad luck that may cling to you from the tomb.

Unless you want to make a cash donation to the temple, do not accept any fortune-telling instructions from the monks or the Taoist priests, as they are not free, and can cost as much as 900 yuan!



Exterior of the tomb of Emperor Qianlong

Photos by Miao Yajie

Get Bouldering

By Cui Yinzhang

If the term "bouldering" sounds like a desperate attempt to create a verb (gerund, for the nit-pickers) where none has any right to exist, you have not been rock climbing recently. Bouldering is to rock climbing as flying a kite is to hang gliding. It is usually done indoors, with lots of strategically placed big, thick cushions and friendly rocks with no sharp corners.

Forget safety equipment, all you really need is a pair of shoes suitable for climbing

and a chalk bag. While experience of mountaineering is not really required, the sport does demand a degree of agility and strength in the arms and hands.

Bouldering has actually been around since the 1970s, but it was not until 1998, when the first international bouldering competition, "Top Rock," was held in UK, that it achieved recognition as a real sport. It has been listed among world cup contests since 1999.

A new venue devoted to this somewhat unextreme sport

opened in Beijing last month, called Boulders' Club. The 500-square-meters of "bouldering walls" offer various types of climbs and levels of difficulties, suitable for beginners and experienced boulderers. Instructors are also on hand, and offer regular free training lectures.

Where: First floor, Shenggu Jiaoyuan, Anzhen Qiao, north third ring road.

Open: 9 am - midnight
Admission: adults 35 yuan, children 20 yuan
Tel: 6444 1956

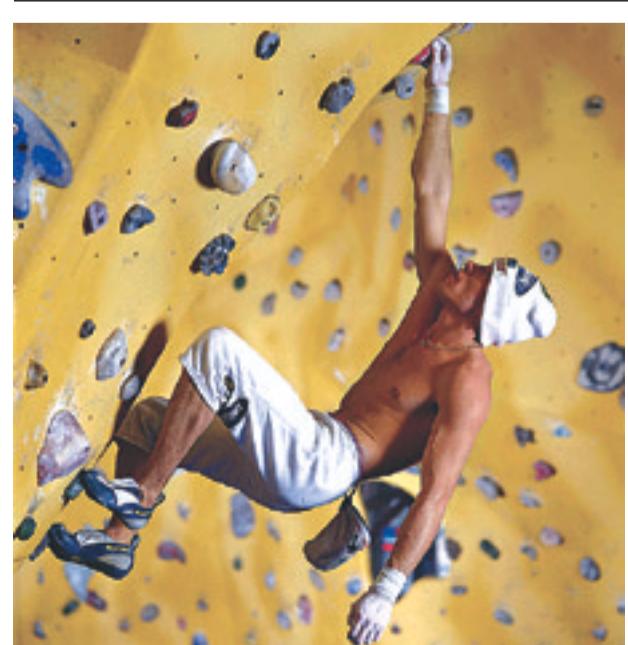


Photo provided by Boulders' Club



Wall paintings at Yuxugong

Retirement Home for Eunuchs

By Zhao Hongyi

The court eunuch system can be traced back to 800 BC in ancient Persia, and was officially adopted in China's royal court one thousand years ago, in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). It flourished in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), eventually to decline and disappear at the beginning of last century, in the last years of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Around the middle of the Ming Dynasty, the number of court eunuchs reached 10,000. Offended by the brutality and immorality of the system, the would-be reformist Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908) expelled thousands of eunuchs from the Forbidden City in the late 1870s. But despite his efforts, the system persisted for another four decades, until the dynasty fell in 1911.

When they became too old to continue serving, most eunuchs were obliged to leave the royal palaces. Looked down upon in the society to which they returned, they usually lived together in their own small communities, taking care of each other until they died.

In the mountains of Fangshan District, southwest of Beijing, there is a village called Huangshan, in which stands a two-court yard Daoist temple, called Yuxugong. A memorial stone tablet found in the yard records that a dozen retired eunuchs purchased the temple in 1878, for 400 liang of silver, and turned it into a rest home for retired eunuchs.

The courtyards remain in good condition, though some sections have rotted. The interior decoration says much about the life the eunuchs lived here after they left the royal palace.

As well as the initial group of purchasers, a further 47 names were added later to the tablet, marking the financial contribution they made. Among them is Li Lianying, the most famous eunuch of the late Qing Dynasty. Li accompanied Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908), who controlled the dynasty's political life for five decades.

Getting there: Head southwest along the Beijing-Zhoushoudian Expressway. Huangshan is twenty minutes from Zhoukoudian. Alternatively, take bus 917 from Tianqiao, south of Tiananmen to Zhoukoudian Daokou, and from there take a taxi to Huangshan.



Well hidden on a country hillside, the courtyard was only rediscovered recently.
Photos by Huang Jinshan